UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
LANGUAGE FAIR 2027

LATIN POETRY RECITATION - LEVEL 2

Level Up with World Language!

Instructions for Students:

Prepare and recite the Latin lines printed below. Focus on accurate pronunciation, clear pacing, expressive delivery, and understanding the meaning.

LEVEL 2

Issa

Martial, Epigrams 1-109, lines 1–7

Issa est passere nēquior Catullī,

Issa est pūrior ōsculō columbae,

Issa est blandior omnibus puellīs,

Issa est cārior Indicīs lapillīs,

Issa est dēliciae catella Pūblī.

Hanc tū, sī queritur, loquī putābis;

sentit trīstitiamque gaudiumque.

English translation

Issa is more mischievous than Catullus' sparrow,

Issa is purer than a dove's kiss,

Issa is more affectionate than all the girls,

Issa is more precious than Indian gemstones,

Issa is Publius' darling little dog.

If she whines, you will think that she is speaking;

She feels both sadness and joy.