

LATIN RECITATION (BOYS) LEVEL III and IV – HIGH INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Language Fair 2016

The Death of Tiberius Gracchus

Tiberius Gracchus, tribūnus plēbis creātus, ā senātū dēscīvit; populī favōrem profūsus largītiōnibus sibi conciliāvit; agrōs plēbī dīvidēbat, prōvinciās novīs colōniīs replēbat. Cum autem tribūnīciam potestātem sibi prōrogārī vellet, viam sibi ad rēgnū parāre vidēbātur. Cum convocātī patrēs dēlībērārent quidnam faciendum esset, statim Tiberius Capitōlium petit, manum ad caput referēns, quō signō salūtem suam populō commendābat. Hoc nōbilitās ita accēpit, quasi diadēma posceret. Segniter cessante cōsule, Scīpiō Nāsica sublātā dextrā prōclāmāvit, “Quī rempūblicam salvam esse volunt, mē sequantur!” Dein optimātēs, senātus atque equestris ōrdinis pars maior in Gracchum irruunt, quī fugiēns dēcurrēnsque clīvō Capitōlinō frāgmentō subselliī ictus, vītam, quam glōriōsissimē dēgere potuerat, immātūrā morte finīvit.

Fābulae Rōmānae (1993) p. 123 (abridged)

Tiberius Gracchus, created tribune of the plebeians, broke away from the Senate; extravagant with gifts, he won over the favor of the people for himself; he divided the fields for the plebeians, he refilled provinces with new settlements. But when he wanted his tribunician power to be extended for himself, he seemed to be preparing a path toward kingship for himself. When the gathered senators were deliberating what should be done, Tiberius immediately headed for the Capitolium, raising his hand to his head, by which signal he entrusted his safety to the people. The nobility took this as if he were demanding a crown. Because the consul was feebly hesitating, Scipio Nasica raised his right hand and shouted, “All those who want the state to be safe should follow me!” Then the upper class, the senate, and the greater part of the equestrian order rushed upon Gracchus, who, fleeing and running down the Capitoline slope, was struck by a piece of a senatorial chair, and ended the life (which he could have spent very well) in an untimely death.

LATIN RECITATION (GIRLS) LEVEL III and IV – HIGH INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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The Death of Glauce

lāsōn et Mēdēa Corinthum vēnērunt, cuius urbis Creōn quīdam rēgnum tum obtinēbat. Erat autem Creontī filia ūna, nōmine Glaucē. Quam cum vīdisset, lāsōn cōstituit Glaucēn in mātirimōnium dūcere. At Mēdēa irā graviter commōta iūre iūrandō cōfirmāvit sē tantam iniūriam ultūram. Vestem parāvit summā arte textam et variīs colōribus īfectam; hanc mortiferō quōdam venēnō tinxit, cuius vīs tālis erat ut sī quis eam vestem induisset, corpus eius quasi ignī ūrerētur. Hōc factō vestem ad Glaucēn mīsīt. Illa autem, nihil malī suspicāns, dōnum libenter accēpit, et vestem novam mōre fēminārum statim induit. Vix vestem induerat Glaucē cum dolōrem gravem per omnia membra sēnsit, et paulō post crūdēlī cruciātū adfecta ē vītā excessit.

Ritchie, Fābulae Facilēs (1906), abridged

Jason and Medea came to Corinth, of which city a certain Creon then held the rule. However, Creon had one daughter named Glauce. When Jason had seen her, he decided to wed Glauce. But Medea, seriously angered, took an oath that she would avenge such a great insult. She prepared a cloak woven with the highest skill and dyed with various colors; this she tinted with a certain deadly poison, the effect of which was that if anyone had put on that cloak, his/her body would be burned as if by fire. Having done this, she sent the cloak to Glauce. That woman, however, suspecting nothing evil, gladly accepted the gift and in the manner of women immediately put on the new cloak. Scarcely had Glauce put on the cloak when she felt a serious pain through all her limbs, and a little later, afflicted by cruel torture, she died.