

2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Level ½ and 1--Passage 1

The Gift of Fire

Iuppiter autem Promētheō ignem dare recūsāvit. “Ignis in Olympō manēbit,” dīxit rēx deōrum.

Promētheus nōn respondit, sed cōnsilium bonum cēpit. Noctū volāvit sēcrētō in ātrium deōrum. Celeriter Promētheus taedam flammeam cēpit et ignem in baculō cēlāvit. Deinde dē Olympō ad terram volāvit.

Promētheus, ubi in terram pervēnit, incolās convocāvit. “Bonum dōnum in meō baculō habeō–ignem,” dīxit. “Ignis autem dōnum perīculōsum est. Flammae magnam iniūriam facere possunt. Semper cūrāte ignem! Ita flammae iniūriam facere nōn poterunt.”

Mox erant multae flammae clārae in terrā; cavernae et casae neque frīgidae neque obscūrae erant; propter dōnum Promētheī incolae terrae in clārīs et calidīs casīs hodiē habitant.

“The Gift of Fire,” *Using Latin I* (1961), p. 118 (abridged)

Jupiter, however, refused to give fire to Prometheus. “Fire will remain on Olympus,” said the king of the gods. Prometheus did not respond, but took up a good plan. He flew secretly at night into the atrium of the gods. Quickly Prometheus took a flaming torch and hid the fire in a cane. Then he flew down from Olympus to the earth. Prometheus, when he arrived on the earth, called together the inhabitants. “I have a good gift in my cane–fire,” he said. “Fire, however, is a dangerous gift. Flames can do great harm. Always take care with fire! Thus the flames will not be able to do harm.” Soon there were many bright flames on the land; caves and homes were neither cold nor dark; on account of Prometheus’s gift, the inhabitants of the earth live in bright and warm homes today.

**2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Level ½ and 1--Passage 2**

The Sibyl and Aeneas

Aenēās ante iānuam cavernae Sibyllae stetit et clāmāvit, “Audī mē, Sibylla! Ē regnō mortuōrum Anchīsēs, pater meus, mē vocat. Dūc mē ad Orcum.”

“In silvā propinquā est sacer rāmus aureus,” Sibylla respondit. “Prīmum ad mē fer rāmum aureum! Properā! Deinde tibi portam rēgnī mortuōrum mōnstrābō.”

Aenēās sine morā in silvam obscūram properāvit. Ibi columbās geminās vīdit; lentē volābant. Columbae deae sacrae Aenēae viam mōnstrābant. Subitō Aenēās per rāmōs aurum splendidum cōspexit.

“Ecce! Rāmus aureus!” Aenēās laetus rāmum aureum cēpit et ad cavernam Sibyllae portāvit.

Sibylla dīxit, “Dī tē amant. Ecce! Iānuā cavernae aperta est. Nunc portābimus rāmum aureum ad Prōserpinam, rēgīnam mortuōrum.”

“The Golden Bough,” *Using Latin I* (1961), p. 160 (abridged)

Aeneas stood in front of the door of the cave of the Sibyl and shouted, “Listen to me, Sibyl! Anchises, my father, is calling me from the kingdom of the dead. Lead me to Orcus.” “In the nearby forest there is a sacred golden bough,” Sibyl responded. “First bring the golden bough to me! Hurry! Then I will show the gate of the kingdom of the dead to you.” Aeneas without delay hurried into the dark forest. There he saw twin doves; they were slowly flying. The doves of a sacred goddess were showing the way to Aeneas. Suddenly Aeneas caught sight of splendid gold through the branches. “Look! The golden bough!” Aeneas happily took the golden bough and carried it to the cave of the Sibyl. Sibyl said, “The gods love you. Behold! The door of the cave is open. Now we will carry the golden bough to Proserpina, the queen of the dead.”

**2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Level 2--Passage 1**

Telemachus Meets Ulysses

Tēlemachus ad patriam suam statim redīre cōstituit. Sciēns autem procōs adventum eius exspectāre et eōrum dolōs timēns, in portum nōn intrāvit. Nāve relictā, sōlus ad casam Eumaeī, pāstōris fidēlis, prōcessit.

Hīc Eumaeus et mendīcus, igne accēnsō, cibum parābant. Vōce hominis audītā, Eumaeus ad portam properāvit.

Ubi Tēlemachum vīdit, magnō cum gaudiō iuvenem nōmine appellāvit. Tēlemachus dē mātrem atque dē rēgnō rogāvit, dolēbatque quod pater ad Ithacam nōn redierat.

Minerva vestem et faciem Ulīxis mūtāvit. Tēlemachus clāmavit ubi hominem iam mūtātum vīdit, “Tū es deus! Tū nōs iuvāre potes!”

Ulīxēs filiō suō respondit, “Nōlī timēre! Nōn deus sum; sum pater tuus, quī post multōs cāsūs redī.”

“Telemachus meets Ulysses,” *Using Latin I* (1954), p. 387-8 (abridged)

Telemachus decided to return immediately to his homeland. Knowing, however, that the suitors were awaiting his arrival and fearing their tricks, he did not enter into the harbor. Having left behind his ship, alone he proceeded to the house of Eumaeus, a loyal shepherd. Here Eumaeus and a beggar, with a fire having been lit, were preparing dinner. Having heard the voice of the man, Eumaeus hurried to the door. When he saw Telemachus, he called the young man by his name with great joy. Telemachus asked about his mother and about the kingdom, and grieved because his father had not returned to Ithaca. Minerva changed the garment and appearance of Ulysses. Telemachus shouted when he saw the man now changed, “You are a god! You can help us!” Ulysses responded to his son, “Don’t be afraid! I am not a god; I am your father, who returned after many misfortunes.”

**2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Level 2--Passage 2**

Someone Recognizes Ulysses, But It Is Not Penelope

Ulīxēs Pēnelopae dīxit, “Ōlim in Crētā virum quī Ulīxēs appellābātur vīdī. Vestem purpuream cum fibulā aureā gerēbat.”

Pēnelopē lacrimāns Ulīxī dīxit, “Certē coniugem meum vīdistī. Illam vestem et fibulam Ulixī ipsa dedī.”

Ulīxēs respondit, “Sciō Ulīxem mox ad patriam revertūrū esse.”

Pēnelopē, magnō gaudiō mōta, iussit nūtrīcem pedēs mendīcī lavāre. Nūtrīx fīda, ubi pedēs Ulīxis lavāre incēpit, lātā cicātrīcem recognōvit.

Magnopere excitāta, parvā vōce eī dīxit, “Rediistī, Ulīxēs.”

Ulīxēs quidem celeriter respondit, “Ita; ego sum Ulīxēs. Nōlī autem appellāre mē nōmine meō.”

Pēnelopē, quae haec verba nōn audīverat, dīxit, “Crās arcum Ulīxis in ātrium portārī iubēbō. Procus quī arcum tendere potuerit mē in mātrimōnium dūcet.”

“The Recognition of Ulysses,” *Using Latin I* (1954), p. 388-9 (abridged and adapted)

Ulysses said to Penelope, “Once in Crete I saw a man who was called Ulysses. He was wearing a purple garment with a gold brooch.” Penelope, crying, said to Ulysses, “You certainly saw my husband. I myself gave Ulysses that garment and brooch.” Ulysses responded, “I know Ulysses will soon return to his homeland.” Penelope, moved with great joy, ordered the nurse to wash the feet of the beggar. The faithful nurse, when she began to wash the feet of Ulysses, recognized the wide scar. Greatly excited, she said to him in a quiet voice, “You have returned, Ulysses.” Ulysses indeed immediately responded, “Yes, I am Ulysses. Do not, however, call me by my name.” Penelope, who had not heard these words, said, “Tomorrow I will order the bow of Ulysses to be carried into the atrium. The suitor who will be able to stretch the bow will lead me into marriage.”

2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Advanced Poetry--Passage 2

Arachne Underestimates Minerva

adspicit hanc torvīs inceptaque fīla relinquit
vixque manum retinēns cōnfessaque vultibus īram 35
tālibus obscūram resecūta est Pallada dictīs:
'mentis inops longāque venis cōnfecta senectā,
et nimium vīxisse diū nocet. audiat istās,
sī qua tibī nurus est, sī qua est tibi filia, vōcēs;
cōnsiliī satis est in mē mihi, nēve monendō 40
prōfēcisse putēs, eadem est sententia nōbīs.
cūr nōn ipsa venit? cūr haec certāmina vītāt?'
tum dea 'vēnit!' ait fōrmamque remōvit anīlem
Palladaque exhibuit: venerantur nūmina nymphae
Mygdonidēsque nurūs; sōla est nōn territa virgō, 45
sed tamen ērubuit, subitusque invīta notāvit
ōra rubor rūrsusque ēvānuit, ut solet āēr
purpureus fierī, cum prīmum Aurōra movētur,
et breve post tempus candēscere sōlis ab ortū.

Ovid *Metamorphoses* VI. 34-49

She (Arachne) inspects her (Minerva, in disguise) with piercing (eyes) and leaves behind the threads which she had begun and scarcely holding back her hand and having acknowledged her dark anger with such expressions she answered Pallas with these words: "You come, bereft of mind and exhausted with long old age, and it is harmful to have lived for too long. May she hear those voices of yours, if you have any daughter in law, or if you have any daughter; there is enough advice in me for me, lest you think you have been useful by warning us, we have the same opinion. Why does she not come herself? Why does she avoid these contests?" Then the goddess said, "She has come!" and removed the appearance of an old woman and presented Pallas: the nymphs and the young married women of Mydonia worship her divinity; the unwed woman alone is not terrified, but nevertheless blushed, and a sudden redness reluctantly marked her face, and again vanished, as the air is accustomed to become purple, when first Aurora moves herself (across the sky), and after a short time begins to glow from the rising of the sun.

**2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Advanced Prose--Passage 1**

Horatius Challenges the Etruscans

Circumferēns inde trucēs mināciter oculōs ad procerēs Ētrūscōrum nunc singulōs prōvocāre, nunc increpāre omnēs: servitia rēgum superbōrum, suae lībertātis immemorēs aliēnam oppugnātum venīre. Cūctātī aliquamdiū sunt, dum alius alium, ut proelium incipiant, circumspectant; pudor deinde commōvit aciem, et clāmōre sublātō undique in ūnum hostem tēla coniciunt. Quae cum in obiectō cūcta scūtō haesissent, neque ille minus obstinātus ingentī pontem obtinēret gradū, iam impetū cōnābantur dētrūdere virum, cum simul fragor ruptī pontis, simul clāmōr Rōmānōrum, alacritāte perfectī operis sublātus, pavōre subitō impetum sustinuit. Tum Cocles "Tiberīne pater" inquit, "tē sānctē precor, haec arma et hunc mīlitem propitiō flūmine accipiās." Ita sīc armātus in Tiberim dēsiluit multisque superincīdentibus tēlīs incolumis ad suōs trānāvit.

Livy, Ab Urbe Condita, II. 10

Then, casting his wild eyes around menacingly to the noblemen of the Etruscans, he challenged them one by one, now he chided all of them: that as the slaves of haughty kings, forgetful of their own freedom, they have come to attack (the freedom) of another. They hesitated to begin the battle for some time, while each one looked around at another; then shame stirred up a line of battle, and with a shout having been raised on all sides they threw weapons onto the single enemy. Although all (the spears) clung on his shield which had been blocked them, and he was no less stubbornly holding the bridge with a firm stand, now they were trying to push the man off with an attack, when both the crash of the broken bridge, and at the same time the shout of the Romans, elated by the speed of the completed task, held the attack in check with a sudden panic. Then Cocles said, "Father Tiberinus, I pray to you solemnly, that you receive these weapons and this soldier in your gracious river." And so, thus fully armed, he jumped into the Tiber and with many weapons falling from above, he swam unharmed over to his people.

2023 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Advanced Prose--Passage 2

A Haunted House

Erat Athēnīs spatiōsa et capāx domus sed īnfāmis et pestilēns. Per silentium noctis sonus ferrī, et sī attenderēs ācrius, strepitus vinculōrum longius prīmō, deinde ē proximō reddēbātur: mox appārēbat īdōlōn, senex maciē et squālōre cōnfectus, prōmissā barbā horrentī capillō; crūribus compedēs, manibus catēnās gerēbat quatiēbatque. Inde inhabitantibus trīstēs dīraeque noctēs per metum vigilābantur; vigiliam morbus et crēscente formīdine mors sequēbātur. Nam interdū quoque, quamquam abscesserat imāgō, memoria imāginis oculīs inerrābat, longiorque causīs timōris timor erat. Dēserta inde et damnāta sōlitūdine domus tōtaque illī mōnstrō relicta; prōscribēbātur tamen, seu quis emere seu quis condūcere ignārus tantī malī vellet.

Pliny, *Letters*, 7.27 (5-6)

There was in Athens a large and roomy house but notorious and unhealthy. Through the silence of the night the sound of iron, and if you were to consider it more closely, the clanging of chains was being returned at first from far away, then from nearby: soon a phantom appeared, an old man weakened by famine and filth, with a beard grown out with bristling hair; he was wearing and rattling shackles on his legs and chains on his hands. Therefore sad and dreadful nights were being passed by the inhabitants through fear; illness was following their watchfulness and their death with their increasing dread. For during the day also, although the ghost had departed, the recollection of the ghost was wandering about in their eyes and their fear was further away than the causes of that fear. Then the house was deserted with it even condemned as an uninhabitable place and completely left behind to that monster; however it was being offered for sale, be it that someone might want to buy it or someone, unaware of such great evil, might want to rent it.