

***Quaestiōnēs praelēctiōnī: “Juvenal Explains His Impulse to Satire”***  
*For Wheelock Chapter 16*

Questions that can be given to students in advance to think about as they read and translate the passage for homework, as a basis for discussing the passage in class:

- what seems to be the point of the first sentence?—think of the popularity of poetry recitations in Rome. How has Juvenal been spending (wasting?) his time, and how does he want to change that?
- what reasons does J. give for his decisions to become a) a poet and b) specifically a satirist?
- J. wrote *difficile est saturam nōn scrībere*: how would the meaning differ if he had moved the *nōn* and written *nōn difficile est saturam scrībere*? Which point is more effective, and why?
- WHY did J. feel it was *difficile . . . saturam NON scrībere*?
- What is meant here by *nātūra*? (think of the derivative, “innate”)
- Watch out for *indignātiō*: what case is it, and so how does it function in its clause? What does *indignātiō* really mean, and in what sense does it *versum facit*?
- In the sentence *In librō . . . īnsidiae*, J. lies to us in the first half, as can be seen from his list in the second: explain.

What questions might you compose for the Martial epigram on this same page?