

SELECTIONS FROM CATULLUS: A Guided Reading

Procedures for Study and Lesson Submission

<http://www.wheelockslatin.com/tutorials/catullus/catullus.html>

Unlike my Wheelock, Ovid, Vergil, and Juvenal tutorials (which are the usual prerequisites for this course), the Catullus tutorial, like the one on Cicero's *De Senectute*, is what I term a "guided reading." There is no formal course manual, per se, and you will proceed somewhat more independently—which, as a veteran of my Wheelock-through-Juvenal curricula, you will be well capable of doing.

We shall ordinarily proceed one poem at a time, from selections I'll assign, and your submitted work will consist principally of translation to English, your responses to a few discussion questions, and metrical scansion (Catullus employs several different meters, including some you've not seen in our previous work together).

Following are the steps I strongly suggest following for each poem:

- **READ EACH POEM ALOUD** first, reading both for comprehension and for appreciating the poem's sound effects and musicality; YouTube readings on the website will be helpful in this regard and, based on your prior experience, you'll have a good sense of which of those are more successful than others—the overarching goal, as with reciting poetry in your own native language, is to read expressively with careful attention to meaning. Ancona's edition provides (most, not all) macrons in her notes and end Vocabulary, one reason I recommend her book—the other being her assistance with vocabulary in general.
- **TRANSLATIONS** should be, as I always recommend, "as literal as possible within the limits of natural English idiom," i.e., exact but not awkwardly so—this is so I can continue to assist with your mastery of syntax and comprehending the author's intended meaning as exactly as possible. For a few selections I'll offer the option of doing a "literary" version, after our back-and-forth exchange on your more literal rendering.
- **NOTES** in both Ancona and Quinn should ALWAYS be consulted, as you prepare and type out your translation; ONLY after drafting your own translation to the best of your ability should you consult the Loeb (or any other) translation—and remember that the Loeb (and other published) versions are "literary" not "literal," often somewhat inexact and/or overly interpretive, and thus will not always precisely reflect Catullus' language.
- Any **QUESTIONS** you may have should be submitted along with your emailed assignment; in rare instances, you may have questions you need help with BEFORE emailing your work, but do try to proceed as independently as possible, using Quinn's and Ancona's notes, the Loeb edition (only after working out your own translation as accurately as possible), and other resources you will find on the tutorial's website.

- **EMAIL** to lafleur922@hotmail.com each completed assignment as an attached WORD document; I will acknowledge receipt (if I fail to, please feel FREE to remind me the next day!), and I will do my best to get you detailed responses as soon as possible, usually within a few days of receipt. It will be especially helpful, to us both I believe, if you will include in your WORD document the Latin, line-by-line, with English following, like this:

Cui dono lepidum novum libellum

To whom am I giving [my] charming new little book

The Latin text for each poem can be easily copy-pasted into WORD from the LATIN LIBRARY or PERSEUS websites linked on our Catullus site (note that the PERSEUS texts provide more-or-less useful vocabulary aids by clicking each word):

<https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/catullus.shtml>

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3atext%3a1999.02.0003>

- **NEW ASSIGNMENTS:** when I send responses to one assignment, I'll include specific requirements for the next, so be sure to watch for those.
- **TUITION:** My usual \$60/hour rate is payable in advance, preferably 2-3 hours at a time; I keep careful track of time and report “minutes remaining” when I return assignments with my comments. Email me at lafleur922@hotmail.com for my ZELLE or VENMO payment info; if you prefer PayPal, which charges a fee you will need to cover, use this link <http://www.wheelockslatin.com/tutorials/payment.html> and add \$3 for each \$60 payment.



Catullus & Clodia, painting by Giulio Aristide Sartorio, 1890