

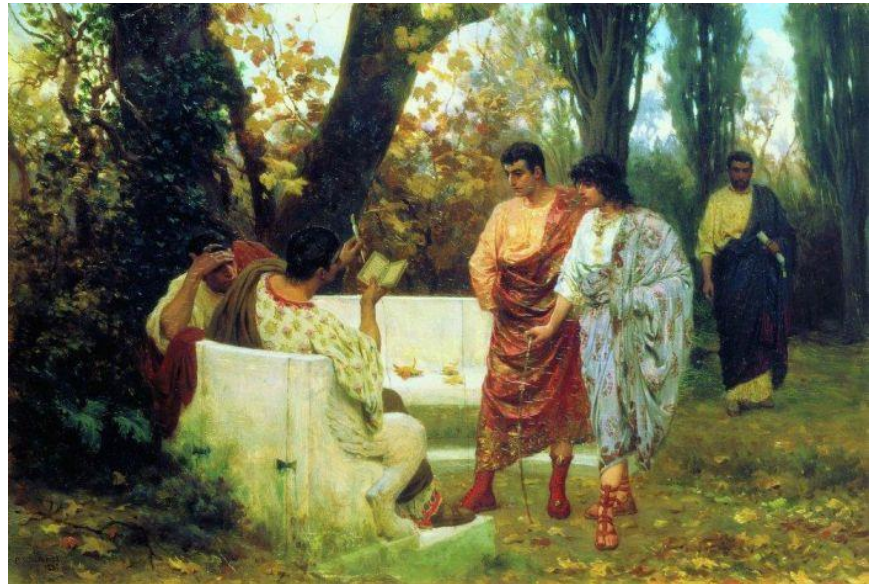
THE CATULLUS HANDOUT

ASSIGNMENTS FOR WEEKS 6-11,
LATIN 3B AT THE LUKEION PROJECT

ROMAN POET: GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS

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Gaius Valerius Catullus (84 BC?-54 BC) lived in almost the same years at Lucretius, but everything about him and his history is of an entirely different cast. Coming from a middle-class family from Verona in the north of Italy, he went early to Rome with the same enthusiasm with which everybody of importance in 20th c. American literature went first to New York and then to Paris. The varied life of The City (the Urbs as Rome was called informally) suited his volatile nature and gave him the city sharpness of wit we see in his slim volume of poetry.



We know much about his life, his connections with Caesar, Cicero, and above all Clodia, whom he styles Lesbia in his verse for her literary rather than lesbian interests. Dying about his thirty third year, he left a small volume which prints up now in less than eighty pages of text. But into this small compass he injects love, hate, sneers at the rich and noble, as well as poems of the utmost tenderness, delicacy and madness.

Coming from an upper-class background, versed in city ways and interested in what the new Alexandrian poets in Egypt were doing in Greek verse, Catullus is aware of everything, vitally involved in everything, a young man plunging headlong into "life" on every level. Involved with Clodia, his great but clearly disappointing love, he goes in with tenderness, struggles with anger and bitter reproaches, and ends with a sad sense of resigned malaise. He dies young, it is hard to think of this flashing phenomenon of Roman literary brilliance living to grow old. The only complaint we can have about Catullus' writing is

that there is so little of it, but even so Catullus is a major figure in literature, his fire and romantic sense of involvement is rare overall, and unique in the annals of Roman writing.

*Catullus is often brutal, and never hesitates about being obscene. Part of this comes from the general Roman lack of verbal restraint, as compared with the prissy and controlling literary forces which have monitored English writing well into this century. That Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* or D H Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* could have been banned on the basis of one or two elemental words, would have seemed insane to any educated Roman. But there are different levels of obscenity. Body function words, whether sexual or excretory, are in our times considered to belong to the lowbrow speech of the working classes. But in Catullus' world it was the emancipated men of the upper-classes who could use obscenity with a telling punch. Catullus is an aristocratic young man-about-town, and while his obscenities may be gross, they belong to his class. ...*

There is very little more to say about Catullus, except that if you get into his writing early and sincerely, there will be enough artistry and brilliance there to last you the rest of your years. One changes gears over the years, and some early favorites pall as time passes. It seems safe to say that if you once really "perceive" Catullus, his poems will stay with you for life.

HEARING the poetry of Catullus is important. Meter is a big part of his artistry! Check out this clever young Latinist who is "singing" the poem as it would have been recited by Catullus himself:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_cxQORTWSU

In this handout you might get the impression that the poetry of Catullus is an easily solved puzzle. The truth is that Catullus was a genius whose poetry was not passed on to the modern age perfectly. [Check out this webpage](#) to get a glimpse at all the academic musings on Catullus through the ages (those who are professional philologists spend a lot of time arguing their case about their favorite pieces of Latin). If that link doesn't work, go here: http://ancient-literature.com/rome_catullus.html

1

Most believe this poem was composed to open Catullus' book of poetry and it introduces him well as it alternates between humility and self-confidence. Catullus calls his poetry "little" and "trifles", but asks that it remain for more than one age. Catullus knows very well the quality of his poetry, and also the provocative form it has. He also calls his work "new;" the poems are recently made and therefore new, but they are also new as some of the first examples of **Neoteric poetry** in the Latin language.

The Neotericoi (νεωτερικοί, Greek for "new poets") refers to avant-garde poets and their poetry, specifically those poets who wrote a *new style* of Greek poetry, deliberately turning away from the classical Homeric epic poetry. Their poems featured small-scale personal themes, instead of the feats of ancient heroes and gods which had become "oh so last century."



Cui dono lepidum novum libellum
 arida modo pumice expolitum?
 Corneli, tibi: namque tu solebas
 meas esse aliquid putare nugas.
 iam tum, cum ausus es unus Italorum
 omne aevum tribus explicare cartis...
 doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosis!
 quare habe tibi quidquid hoc libelli—
 quaecumque, quod, o patrona virgo,
 plus uno maneat perenne saeclo!

NOTES

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8r-SoVXsKw>

1. Dono=do
2. Qualiscumque, qualemcumque=whatever sort or whatever kind
3. Saeculum=saeculum, I, age, century

VOCABULARY HELP

aevum, aevi	N	time, time of life, age, old age, generation; all time
cartus, carti	M	papyrus; record/letter, book/writing; thin metal sheet/leaf
explico, explicare, explicavi, explicatus		unfold, extend; set forth, display, exhibit, explain, disentangle
expolio, expolire, expolivi, expolitus		polish; refine
laboriosus, -a, -um		laborious, painstaking
lepidus, -a -um,		agreeable, charming, delightful, nice; amusing, witty
libellus, libelli	M	little/small book; memorial; pamphlet, defamatory publication; <i>here a partitive genitive with hoc</i>
modo		only just now (adv)
namque		<i>a stronger form of nam; explanatory</i>
nuga, nugae	F	rifles, nonsense; trash; frivolities; bagatelle
perennis, perennis, perenne		continual; everlasting, perpetual, perennial; eternal
pumex, pumicis	M	pumice stone, similar volcanic rock used for smoothing papyrus

2

Passer, deliciae meae puellae,
quicum ludere, quem in sinu tenere,
cui primum digitum dare appetenti
et acris solet incitare morsus,
cum desiderio meo nitenti
carum nescioquid lubet iocari
ut solacium sui doloris,
credo ut tum gravis acquiescat ardor:
tecum ludere sicut ipsa possem
et tristis animi levare curas!



This poem is about the affectionate relationship between Catullus' lover, Lesbia, and her little pet sparrow. Lesbia is a nickname for his girlfriend. Catullus wants to hide her real identity (Claudia) so he has named her after his favorite Greek poetess, Sappho from the Greek island Lesbos near w. Turkey. Because she is an educated woman, she would have considered this a compliment.

NOTES

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J37IFN73iw>
What is a **tricolon crescens**?

VOCABULARY HELP

acquiesco, acquiescere, acquievi, acquietus		lie with, rest/relax; repose; acquiesce/assent/submit;
acris		= <i>acres</i> , variant accusative plural, sharp/fierce/dangerous/eager
appetens, appetentis (gen.),		eager/greedy/having appetite for, desirous; avaricious/seeking
ardor, ardoris	M	fire, flame, heat; brightness, flash, gleam or color; ardor, love, intensity
desiderio meo nitenti		Take all three of these words as a dative with <i>lubet</i> "to my shining object of desire"
incito, incitare, incitavi, incitatus		enrage; urge on; inspire; arouse
iocor, iocari, iocatus sum		joke, jest; say in jest; make merry
levo, levare, levavi, levatus		lift/raise/hold up; support; erect, set up; lift off, remove; comfort
lubet, lubere, lubuit, lubitus est		it pleases/is pleasing/agreeable; please/want/feel like
ludo, ludere, lusi, lusus		play, mock, tease, trick
mordeo, mordere, momordi, morsus		bite; sting; hurt, pain; criticize, carp at; eat, consume; bite
nescioquid		something or other; literally "I know not what"
niteo, nitere, nitui,		shine, glitter, look bright; be sleek/in good condition; bloom, thrive
passer, passeris	M	sparrow
sinus, sinus	M	curved or bent surface; bending, curve, fold; bosom, lap; bay
solacium, solacioli	N	small consolation
tristis		= <i>tristes</i> , variant accusative plural, sad

3

Lugete, o Veneres Cupidinesque,
et quantum est hominum venustiorum:
passer mortuus est meae puellae,
passer, deliciae meae puellae,
quem plus illa oculis suis amabat.
nam mellitus erat suamque norat
ipsam tam bene quam puella matrem,
nec sese a gremio illius movebat,
sed circumsiliens modo huc modo illuc

Heu! Lesbia's poor pet sparrow is dead! Catullus isn't really sad. **This is a mock eulogy about the little pest** that was stealing all of Lesbia's attention from Catullus.



ad solam dominam usque pipiabat.
 qui nunc it per iter tenebricosum
 illuc, unde negant redire quemquam.
 at vobis male sit, malae tenebrae
 Orci, quae omnia bella devoratis:
 tam bellum mihi passerem abstulistis
 o factum male! o miselle passer!
 tua nunc opera meae puellae
 flendo turgiduli rubent ocelli.

NOTES: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=QD-5FH0IBX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD-5FH0IBX8) FOR PRONUNCIATION (PLUS SOME SUPER CREEPY ANIMATION)

1. Venus, -eris, f., Venus, here pl. as Cupidines
2. Gen of whole with quantum; how much of people there is=all the people there are
3. Venustiorum=more charming (than ordinary men)
4. Noverat is contracted form from nosco
5. Suam...ipsam, its very own (mistress)
6. Sese=se (acc)
7. Qui=et hic
8. mihi (following tam bellum) = dat. of separation
9. o=exclamation (like Oh! or Alas!)

VOCABULARY HELP

circumsilio, circumsilire, -, -		leap/spring/hop round
devoro, devorare, devoravi, devoratus		devour, consume; swallow, gulp down; engulf/ingulf, drink in
fleo, flere, flevi, fletus		cry for; cry, weep
gremium, gremi(i)	N	lap, bosom; womb, interior; female genital parts
lugeo, lugere, luxi, luctus		mourn, grieve; bewail, lament; be in mourning
mellitus, mellita, mellitum		sweetened with honey; honey-sweet
misellus, misella, misellum		poor, wretched
nosco, noscere, novi, notus		get to know; learn, find out; become acquainted/familiar with
ocellus, ocelli	M	eye; darling
orcus, orci	M	Lower World;
pipio, pipiare, pipiavi, pipiatus		chirp, pipe
rubeo, rubere, -, -		be red, become red
tenebra, tenebrae	F	darkness, obscurity; night; dark corner; ignorance; concealment; gloom
turgidulus, -a, -um		swollen/infated/inflamed/grandiose

Vivamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus,
 rumoresque senum severiorum
 omnes unius aestimemus assis!
 soles occidere et redire possunt:
 nobis, cum semel occidit brevis lux,
 nox est perpetua una dormienda.
 da mi basia mille, deinde centum,
 dein mille altera, dein secunda centum,
 deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum.
 dein, cum milia multa fecerimus,
 conturbabimus, illa ne sciamus,
 aut ne quis malus invidere possit
 cum tantum sciat esse basiorum.

This poem urges Lesbia to ignore the rumors that might circulate about the two of them and to share several thousand kisses in the meantime!



NOTES:

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KPmGVUStbs>

VOCABULARY HELP

aestimo, -are, aestimavi, aestimatus		value, assess; estimate; reckon; consider, judge; esteem
assis, assis	M	penny, copper coin; a pound; one, whole; round slice
conturbo, conturbare, conturbavi, conturbatus		confuse, disquiet/confound/dismay, upset/mix up
dormio, dormire, dormivi, dormitus		sleep, rest; behave as if asleep; be idle, do nothing
invideo, invidere, invidi, invisus		envy, regard with envy/ill will; be jealous of; begrudge, refuse
semel		once, on one occasion
severus, -a -um		stern, strict, severe; grave; weighty, serious; plain
sol, solis	M	sun

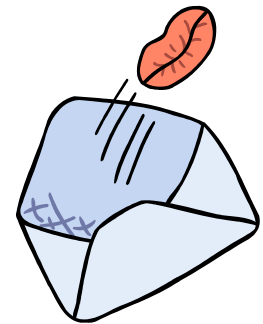
WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENT

CATULLUS 7, 8, 14

7

Quaeris, quot mihi basiationes
tuae, Lesbia, sint satis superque.
quam magnus numerus Libyssae harenae
lasarpiciferis iacet Cyrenis
oraclum Iovis inter aestuosi
et Batti veteris sacrum sepulcrum;
aut quam sidera multa, cum tacet nox,
furtivos hominum vident amores:
tam te basia multa basiare
vesano satis et super Catullo est,
quae nec pernumerare curiosi
possint nec mala fascinare lingua.

Yep, more kissing: a poet writes what's on his mind so what are you going to do, my young ones? Catullus is clearly smitten and sure knows how to write a romantic poem. *Gentlemen: I recommend borrowing a few phrases but give Catullus credit if she knows any Latin.*



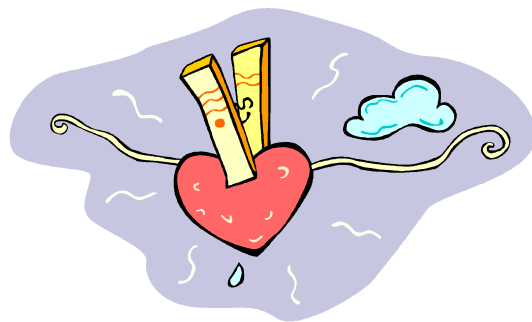
NOTES:

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agfLobxyoNw>

VOCABULARY HELP

aestuosus, -a -um,		burning hot, glowing, sweltering, sultry; fevered; seething, raging
basatio, basiationis	F	kiss
Battus, Batti,	M	founder of Cyrene, N. Africa.
fascino, fascinare, fascinavi, fascinat		cast a spell on, bewitch
furtivus, -a, -um		stolen; secret, furtive
harena, harenae	F	sand, grains of sand; desert; seashore; arena, place of contest
lasarpiciger, a, um,		bearing lasarpicium, a medicinal plant
pernumero, pernumerare, pernumeravi, pernumeratus		count up; reckon
quaero, quaerere, quaesivi, quaesitus		search for, seek, strive for; obtain; ask, inquire, demand
vesanus, -a, -um		mad, frenzied; wild

Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire,
 et quod vides perisse perditum ducas.
 Fulsero quondam candidi tibi soles,
 cum ventitabas quo puella ducebat
 amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla.
 Ibi illa multa cum iocosa fiebant,
 quae tu volebas nec puella nolebat,
 fulsero vere candidi tibi soles.
 Nunc iam illa non vult: tu quoque impotens noli,
 nec quae fugit sectare, nec miser vive,
 sed obstinata mente perfer, obdura.
 Vale puella, iam Catullus obdurat,
 nec te requiret nec rogabit invitam.
 At tu dolebis, cum rogaberis nulla.
 Scelesti, uae te, quae tibi manet uita?
 Quis nunc te adibit? cui videberis bella?
 Quem nunc amabis? Cuius esse diceris?
 Quem basiabis? Cui labella mordebis?
 At tu, Catulle, destinatus obdura.



LISTEN:

<https://youtu.be/UyNdDd6hLHg>

Oh no! Catullus' heart is broken since his girl loves him no more. This poem is a stern talking to by Catullus to Catullus in the hopes he can fortify himself even with a broken heart. *The poem reminds me of an old song by an old group called 'The Cars' called 'Ride.'* Ask your parents, maybe they know it. *Stick close to your case grammar for best success translating this poem.*

NOTES:

Although the poem is addressed throughout to Catullus himself, and the name of his paramour is nowhere mentioned, the subject is clearly his failed love affair with Lesbia. The use of the **choliambic meter** (also known as limping, lame or halting iambic) creates a broken uneven effect, mimicking the dead end of Catullus' thoughts. The first word of the poem, "miser", is a FAVORITE word and self-description of Catullus'. It can be translated as

“miserable”, “wretched” or “unhappy”, but also as “love-sick.” The final word of the poem, “obdura” (“endure”), also used in lines 11 and 12, is a blunt imperative as Catullus tries to snap himself out of his misery.

The poem moves through a progression from Catullus’ utter dejection at his abandonment by Lesbia, through a middle section where he remembers some of the good things in life, then a phase where he expresses his anger and frustration at Lesbia, and finally his resolve to overcome his despondency and move on. However, the repeated and exaggerated use of the rhetorical questions towards the end of the poem in lines 15 - 18 actually appears to be trying to bait Lesbia into taking him back, suggesting that he has not truly given up.

VOCABULARY HELP

desino, desinere, desivi, desitus	stop/end/finish, abandon/leave/break off; come to an end
destino, destinare, destinavi, destinatus	fix/bind/fasten down; fix, make up mind; aim/fix on target,
fulgeo, fulgere, fulsi, -	flash, shine; glow, gleam, glitter, shine forth, be bright
ineptio, ineptire, -, -	play the fool, trifle
jocosus, jocosus, jocosum	humorous, funny, droll; sportive; factious; full of jokes/fun
mordeo, mordere, momordi, morsus	bite; sting; hurt, pain; criticize, carp at; eat, consume; bite into
obduro, obdurare, obduravi, obduratus	be hard, persist, endure
obstino, obstinare, obstinavi, obstinatus	be determined on
perdo, perdere, perdidi, perditus	ruin, destroy; lose; waste
pereo, perire, perivi(ii), peritus	die, pass away; be ruined, be destroyed; go to waste
scelestus, scelestus, scelestum	infamous, wicked; accursed
ventito, ventitare, ventitavi, ventitatus	keep coming; come regularly, come often; resort

Ni te plus oculis meis amarem,
 iucundissime Calve, munere isto
 odissem te odio Vatiniano:
 nam quid feci ego quidve sum locutus,
 cur me tot male perderes poetis?
 Isti di mala multa dent clienti,
 qui tantum tibi misit impiorum.
 Quod si, ut suspicor, hoc novum ac repertum
 munus dat tibi Sulla litterator,
 non est mi male, sed bene ac beate,
 quod non dispereunt tui labores.

Di magni, horribilem et sacrum libellum!

Quem tu scilicet ad tuum Catullum
 misti, continuo ut die periret,
 Saturnalibus, optimo dierum!
 Non non hoc tibi, false, sic abibit.
 Nam si luxerit ad librariorum
 curram scrinia, Caesios, Aquinos,
 Suffenum, omnia colligam venena.
 Ac te his suppliciis remunerabor.
 Vos hinc interea valet abite
 illuc, unde malum pedem attulistis,
 saeculi incommoda, pessimi poetae.

Catullus is giving his friend Calvus a hard time for sending him a book of terrible poetry. Vatinus was a man he prosecuted in court. Catullus jokes that the book of bad poetry was Calvus' payment for his capacities as lawyer to Sulla. The gift was given during the *Saturnalia*, the Roman equivalent to modern Christmas time in America: full of gift-giving and pleasant times (unless you give a friend bad poetry).

NOTES

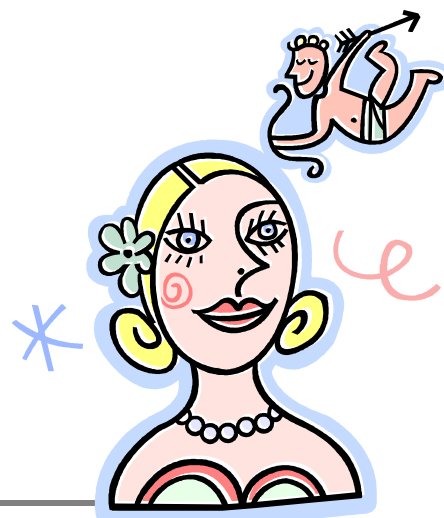
Now that you've practiced some Catullus, read through the poem in Latin carefully. Look for signs of structure and form before starting your translation. Catullus is being quite dramatic (but also funny). See if you can decode this poem fully!

VOCABULARY HELP

Sulla, Sullae	M	Sulla
affero, afferre, attuli, allatus		bring to, carry, convey; report, allege, announce; produce, cause
calvus, -a -um,		bald, bald-headed; having head shaved; smooth; bare/stripped
cliens, clientis		client, dependent, vassal; client state/its citizens, allies
colligo, colligere, collegi, collectus		collect, assemble, bring/gather/hold/keep together; pick up
continuo		immediately, at once, without delay/intermission; continuously
curro, currere, cucurri, cursus		run/trot/gallop, hurry/hasten/speed, move/travel/proceed quickly
disperere, disperire, disperivi(ii), disperitus		perish/die; be destroyed; be ruined; disappear
do, dare, dedi, datus		give; dedicate; sell; pay; grant/ /offer/lend; devote; allow; make
impius, impia, impium		wicked, impious, irreverent; showing no regard for moral duty
incommodus, -a -um,		inconvenient, troublesome, annoying; disagreeable; disobliging
librarius, librari(i)	M	copyist, secretary; bookseller
litterator, litteratoris	M	elementary schoolmaster, one who teaches the elements
luceo, lucere, luxi, -		shine, emit light; dawn; cause to shine; be clear/evident
munus, muneris	N	service; duty, office, function; gift; tribute, offering; bribes
ni		if... not; unless
perdo, perdere, perdidi, perditus		ruin, destroy; lose; waste
remuneror, remunerari, remuneratus sum		reward, repay, remunerate; requite; pay back, retaliate
scilicet		one may know, certainly; of course
scrinium, scrini(i) N		box, case
supplicium, supplici(i) N		punishment, suffering; supplication; torture
suspicio, suspicari, suspicatus sum		mistrust, suspect; suppose
venenum, veneni N		poison; drug

Acmen Septimius suos amores
 tenens in gremio 'mea' inquit 'Acme,
 ni te perdit amo atque amare porro
 omnes sum assidue paratus annos,
 quantum qui pote plurimum perire,
 solus in Libya Indiaque tosta
 caesio veniam obuius leoni.'
 Hoc ut dixit, Amor sinistra ut ante
 dextra sternuit approbationem.
 At Acme leviter caput reflectens
 et dulcis pueri ebrios ocellos
 illo purpureo ore suaviata,
 'sic' inquit 'mea vita Septimille,
 huic uni domino usque serviamus,
 ut multo mihi maior acriorque
 ignis mollibus ardet in medullis.'
 Hoc ut dixit, Amor sinistra ut ante
 dextra sternuit approbationem.
 Nunc ab auspicio bono profecti
 mutuis animis amant amantur.
 Unam Septimius misellus Acmen
 mavult quam Syrias Britanniasque:
 uno in Septimio fidelis Acme
 facit delicias libidinisque.
 quis ullos homines beatiores
 vidit, quis Venerem auspiciorem?

A love story and sneezing Cupid (Amor)! **Hint: when Cupid sneezes, that's a good omen!** The Romans were always looking for signs the gods approved of their decisions and a sneeze works perfectly well. This love story is about a gal named **Acme** and a guy named **Septimius**



VOCABULARY HELP

assiduus, -a -um	constant, regular; unremitting, incessant; ordinary; first-class
auspicatus, -a -um	consecrated/approved by auguries, auspicious/fortunate/lucky
caesius, -a -um	gray, gray-blue; having gray/gray-blue/steel-colored eyes
ebrius, ebria, ebrum	drunk, intoxicated; riotous; exhilarated, distraught; soaked in
gremium, gremi(i)	N lap, bosom; womb, interior; female genital parts
libido, libidinis	F desire/longing/wish/fancy; will/pleasure; passion/lusts
medulla, medullae	F marrow, kernel; innermost part; quintessence
mollis, molle,	soft; flexible/supple/loose/pliant; mild/tolerable; easy; calm
ocellus, ocelli	M eye; darling
pereo, perire, perivi(ii), peritus	die, pass away; be ruined, be destroyed; go to waste
porro	at distance, further on, far off; of old, formerly, hereafter; again
pote = potest	
torreo, torrere, torroi, tostus	parch, roast, scorch, bake, burn; dry up; harden by charring

49

Disertissime Romuli nepotum,
quot sunt quotque fuere, Marce Tulli,
quotque post aliis erunt in annis,
gratias tibi maximas Catullus
agit pessimus omnium poeta,
tanto pessimus omnium poeta,
quanto tu optimus omnium patronus.

A poem of thanks to Cicero (Marcus Tullius) from Catullus. Do you think Catullus likes Cicero or dislikes him? It is possible we see some nice Roman sarcasm here!

NOTES:

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7coq9Z23Mbl&list=UU30yV4OSzNd_uDJ9c1OFXBg&index=11

Ille mi par esse deo videtur,
 ille, si fas est, superare divos,
 qui sedens adversus identidem te
 spectat et audit
 dulce ridentem, misero quod omnis
 eripit sensus mihi: nam simul te,
 Lesbia, aspexi, nihil est super mi
 vocis in ore,
 lingua sed torpet, tenuis sub artus
 flamma demanat, sonitu suo
 tintinant aures, gemina teguntur
 lumina nocte.
 Otium, Catulle, tibi molestum est:
 otio exultas nimiumque gestis:
 otium et reges prius et beatas
 perdidit urbes.

Listen:

<https://youtu.be/0aNaTOMF3sg>

Catullus is so jealous of the man who grabbed all of Lesbia's attention that he re-works this poem. It was originally written 700 years earlier by a Greek poetess named Sappho in *Greek*. Most believe this poem was written very early in Catullus' crush on Claudia (aka Lesbia) and this poem is the reason he nicknames her Lesbia (poetess Sappho was from the island Lesbos). Catullus feels like a very miserable third wheel.



VOCABULARY HELP

adversus, -a -um	opposite, directly facing, ranged against; adverse, evil, hostile; unfavorable
artus, artus	M, arm/leg/limb, joint, part of the body; frame, body; sexual members/organs
demano, demanare, demanavi, demanatus	run/flow down; percolate; flow different ways; descend
gestio, gestire, gestivi, gestitus	be eager, wish passionately; gesticulate, express strong feeling, exult
identidem	repeatedly; again and again, continually
molestus, -a -um	annoying; troublesome; tiresome
perdo, perdere, perdidi, perditus	ruin, destroy; lose; waste
tenuis, tenue,	thin, fine; delicate; slight, slender; little, unimportant; weak, feeble
tintino, tintinare, tintinavi, tintinatus	make a ringing or jangling sound
torpeo, torpere, -, -	be numb or lethargic; be struck motionless from fear

A Poem to Hortalus about Catullus' grief over the loss of his brother. In an attempt to think about more cheerful things, Catullus has been creating translations of poems by the Greek poet Callimachus.

Etsi me assiduo confectum cura dolore
sevocat a doctis, Ortale, virginibus,
nec potis est dulcis Musarum expromere fetus
mens animi, tantis fluctuat ipsa malis--
namque mei nuper Lethaeo in gurgite fratris
pallidulum manans alluit unda pedem,
Troia Rhoeteo quem subter litore tellus
ereptum nostris obterit ex oculis. [.....]
numquam ego te, vita frater amabilior,
aspiciam posthac? at certe semper amabo,
semper maesta tua carmina morte canam,
qualia sub densis ramorum concinit umbris
Daulias, absumpti fata gemens Ityli--
sed tamen in tantis maeroribus, Ortale, mitto
haec expressa tibi carmina Battiadae,
ne tua dicta vagis nequiquam credita ventis
effluxisse meo forte putes animo,
ut missum sponsi furtivo munere malum
procurrit casto virginis e gremio,
quod miserae oblatae molli sub veste locatum,
dum adventu matris prosilit, excutitur,
atque illud prono praeceps agitur decursu,
huic manat tristi conscius ore rubor.

VOCABULARY HELP

alluo, alluere, allui, -		wash/flow past/near/against, lap; beset; bathe; deposit silt
aspicio, aspicere, aspexi, aspectus		look/gaze on/at, see, observe, behold, regard; face; consider
assiduo		continually, constantly, regularly
decursus, decursus	M	descent; downward course/slope/rush/fall/flow; maneuver
effluo, effluere, effluxi,		flow out, flow forth; disappear, vanish, escape; be forgotten
excutio, excutere, excussi, excussus		shake out or off; cast out; search, examine
fetus, fetus	M	offspring/young; children; brood/litter
furtivus, furtiva, furtivum		stolen; secret, furtive
gurgus, gurgitis	M	whirlpool; raging abyss; gulf, the sea; "flood", "stream"
maeror, maeroris	M	grief, sorrow, sadness; mourning; lamentation
obtero, obterere, obtrivi, obtritus		crush; destroy; trample on, speak of with the utmost contempt
pallidulus, pallidula, pallidulum		somewhat pale
prosilio, prosilire, prosilui, -		jump/leap up/forward; rush/leap/spring forth/to; gush/break/jut out
sevoco, sevocare, sevocavi, sevocatus		call aside; remove; separate
spondeo, spondere, spocondi, sponsus		promise, give pledge/surety; contract to give/take in marriage

70

Catullus has become very critical of his gal and her untrustworthy comments. Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem: <https://youtu.be/PVkwRq5PHsl>

Nulli se dicit mulier mea nubere malle
quam mihi, non si se Iuppiter ipse petat.
dicit: sed mulier cupido quod dicit amanti,
in vento et rapida scribere oportet aqua.



VOCABULARY HELP

malo, malle, malui, -	prefer; incline toward, wish rather
nubo, nubere, nupsi, nuptus	marry, be married to
oporteo, oportere, oportui, oportuitus	require, order

Dark days indeed for Catullus and his wounded heart when it comes to his trust of Lesbia!

Dicebas quondam solum te nosse Catullum,
 Lesbia, nec prae me velle tenere louem.
 dilexi tum te non tantum ut vulgus amicam,
 sed pater ut gnatos diligit et generos.
 nunc te cognovi: quare etsi impensius uror,
 multo mi tamen es vilior et levior.
 qui potis est, inquis? quod amantem iniuria talis
 cogit amare magis, sed bene velle minus.



NOTES

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8TYLX44yWA&list=UU30yV4OSzNd_uDJ9c1OFXBg&index=2

VOCABULARY HELP

gener, generi	M, son-in-law
gnatus, gnati	M, son; child; children
impense	without stint; lavishly, exceedingly, greatly, very much; eagerly,
levis, leve,	light, thin, trivial, trifling, slight; gentle; fickle, capricious; nimble
quondam	formerly, once, at one time; someday, hereafter
vilis, vilis,	vile, cheap, common, mean, worthless

WEEK 5

85, 87, 101, EXCERPT FROM 64

85

This short poem remains the most famous poem written by our poet. Don't miss the musical version which captures Catullus' great sadness: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hFlsR_y2t4&feature=related

Now that you've had a taste of the SENSE of this poem, look also here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7--agTtb5M>

Odi et amo. Quare id faciam, fortasse requiris.
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.

87

Catullus believes he kept to the high road in his love for Lesbia while she took the LOW ROAD:

Nulla potest mulier tantum se dicere amatam
vere, quantum a me Lesbia amata mea est.
Nulla fides ullo fuit umquam foedere tanta,
quanta in amore tuo ex parte reperta mea est.

NOTES:

Go here for GREAT pointers BEFORE you attempt this poem:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbLRlYrwJyQ&list=UU30yV4OSzNd_uDJ9c1OFXBg

Final words offered at Catullus' brother's grave. His brother met his end and now Catullus stands at his grave. He brings 'grave goods' or personal items brought to bury with the dead. Listen first:

https://youtu.be/i1GL29132_w



Multas per gentes et multa per aequora vectus
 advenio has miseras, frater, ad inferias,
 ut te postremo donarem munere mortis
 et mutam nequiquam alloquerer cinerem.
 Quandoquidem fortuna mihi tete abstulit ipsum.
 Heu miser indigne frater adempte mihi,
 nunc tamen interea haec, prisco quae more parentum
 tradita sunt tristi munere ad inferias,
 accipe fraterno multum manantia fletu,
 atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale.

VOCABULARY HELP

alloquor, alloqui, allocutus sum speak to; address, harangue, make a speech; call on; console
 aufero, auferre, abstuli, ablatus bear/carry/take/fetch/sweep/snatch away, remove, withdraw; steal,
 cinis, cineris ashes; embers, spent love/hate; ruin, destruction; the grave/dead, cremation
 fletus, fletus M weeping, crying, tears; wailing; lamenting
 inferia, inferiae F offerings to the dead
 mano, manare, manavi, manatus flow, pour; be shed; be wet; spring
 munus, muneris N service; duty, office, function; gift; tribute, offering; bribes
 priscus, prisca, priscum ancient, early, former
 quandoquidem since, seeing that
 veho, vehere, vexi, vectus bear, carry, convey; pass, ride, sail

This is a **long poem** (an *epyllion* or miniature epic) which offers a story within a story within a story. We will read a very small portion of the passage about Theseus and Ariadne starting in line 76 in which we begin the story of how princess Ariadne helps hero Theseus defeat the Minotaur.

Androgeoneae poenas exsoluere caedis
electos ivuenes simul et decus innuptarum
Cecropiam solitam esse dapem dare Minotauro.
quis angusta malis cum moenia uexarentur,
ipse suum Theseus pro caris corpus Athenis 5
proicere optauit potius quam talia Cretam
funera Cecropiae nec funera portarentur.

atque ita nave leui nitens ac lenibus auris
magnanimum ad Minoa venit sedesque superbas.
hunc simul ac cupido conspexit lumine uirgo 10
regia, quam suavis exspirans castus odores
lectulus in molli complexu matris alebat,
quales Eurotae praecingunt flumina myrtus
aurave distinctos educit verna colores,

non prius ex illo flagrantia declinavit 15
lumina, quam cuncto concepit corpore flammam
funditus atque imis exarsit tota medullis.

heu misere exagitans immiti corde furores
sancte puer, curis hominum qui gaudia misces,

quaeque regis Golgos quaeque Idalium frondosum, 20
qualibus incensam iactastis mente puellam
fluctibus, in flavo saepe hospite suspirantem!

quantos illa tulit languenti corde timores!
quanto saepe magis fulgore expalluit auri,
cum saevum cupiens contra contendere monstrum 25
aut mortem appeteret Theseus aut praemia laudis!
non ingrata tamen frustra munuscula divis
promittens tacito suscepit vota labello.

nam velut in summo quatientem brachia Tauro
quercum aut conigeram sudanti cortice pinum 30
indomitus turbo contorquens flamine robur,
eruit (illa procul radicitus exturbata
prona cadit, late quaevis cumque obuia frangens,)

sic domito saeuum prostravit corpore Theseus
nequiquam vanis iactantem cornua ventis. 40

inde pedem sospes multa cum laude reflexit
errabunda regens tenui vestigia filo,
ne labyrintheis e flexibus egredientem
tecti frustraretur inobservabilis error.



VOCABULARY HELP

alo, alere, alui, altus	feed, nourish, rear, nurse, suckle; cherish; support, maintain, develop
angustus, -a -um	narrow, steep, close, confined; scanty, poor; low, mean; narrowminded, petty
castus, -a -um	pure, moral; chaste, virtuous, pious; sacred; spotless; free from/untouched by
daps, dapis	F, sacrificial feast/meal; feast, banquet; food/meal of animals
errabundus, -a, -um	wandering
exagito, exagitare, exagitavi, exagitatus	drive out; stir up, disturb continually, harass; attack, scold, discuss
exardesco, exardescere, exarsi, exarsus	flare/blaze up; break out; glow; rage; be provoked; be exasperated
exsolvo, exsolvere, exsolvi, exsolutus	unfasten/undo/loose; open; thaw; let flow; solve
frango, frangere, fregi, fractus	break, shatter, crush; dishearten, subdue, weaken; move, discourage
frondosus, frondosa, frondosum	leafy, abounding in foliage
frustro, frustrare, frustravi, frustratus	disappoint, frustrate, deceive; escape/elude; baffle/evade; fail
funditus	utterly/completely/without exception; from the bottom/ by the root
innuptus, innupta, innuptum	unmarried
labellum, labelli	N a little lip
lectulus, lectuli	M bed or couch
munusculum, munusculi	N small present or favor
nitor, niti, nixus sum	press/lean upon; struggle; advance; depend on; strive, labor
prosterno, prosternere, prostravi, prostratus	knock over; strike down; exhaust; debase/demean; prostrate
tacitus, tacita, tacitum	silent, secret
vexo, vexare, vexavi, vexatus	shake, jolt, toss violently; annoy, trouble, harass, plague, disturb, vex