



THE TORCH



STATE CONVENTION EDITION

The Results Are In!

We know you've been anxiously awaiting the results of the Pre-Convention contests- so here they are!

P.S. - Please excuse the different formatting.

The Year in Review!



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Results, Results and More Results

POETRY RESULTS 2013

Level ½

1. Forever, by Sarah Dahlberg—Covenant Day School, 21116
2. The Opening, by Sullivan K. Higson—Covenant Day School, 21137
3. Theseus and the Minotaur, by Natalie Shires—Covenant Day School, 21168
4. Orpheus' Haiku, by Ben Johnson—Covenant Day School, 21143
5. Zeus Was Highest, by Leah Ertel—Covenant Day School, 21023

Level 1

1. The Trojan Horse, by Victoria Patterson, West Rowan High School, 76089
2. Halcyon Days, by Stephanie Bishop, West Rowan High School, 76065
3. Theseus and the Minotaur, by Katherine Stroud, Covenant Day School, 21055
4. The Golden Apple, by Claudia Patterson, West Rowan High School, 76088
5. No Apologies....Its Greek Mythology, by Payton Nance, West Rowan High School, 76034

Level 2

1. Rules of the Sky, by Lauren Hoopes, Reagan High School, 74028
2. Guilty Innocence, by Bess Blackburn, Covenant Day School, 27004
3. Diana, by Jessica Gada, West Rowan High School, 76015
4. Orpheus and Eurydice, by Kimmy Gada, West Rowan High School, 76016

Level 3

1. Proserpina, by Michaela Berens, Charlotte Latin, 29002
2. To Lucius Sergius Catiline: Where Did You Go Wrong?, by Emily Ho, Charlotte Latin, 29018
3. Regret, by Madeline Jones, Charlotte Latin, 29020
4. Arria's Lonely Grief, by Joe Lardley, Covenant Day School, 27054
5. The Danaids, by Dana Blackburn, West Rowan High School, 76004

Level 4 and 5

1. Amo et Odi, by Richmond Sheedy, Charlotte Latin, 29039
2. Penelope, by Sarah Howard, Cedar Ridge High School, 15026
3. The Lamentation of Achilles Upon the death of Patroclus, by David Farrow, Charlotte Latin, 29010
4. Last Day of Pompeii, by Allison Kaika, Covenant Day School, 27032
5. Procession of the Trojan Horse, by Ashley Jackson, Covenant Day High School, 27027

POETRY BEST IN SHOW: Amo et Odi, by Richmond Sheedy, Charlotte Latin, 29039

A sea of Latin is one to be drowned in -

For its waters, chilled by the frozen heart of Lesbia herself, stab like a knife

And, above, the sweet girl's sparrows, in blotting the hopeful sun, choke life.

While, below, the dark depths swallow whole souls effortlessly in an abyss of Catilinarian sin -

And above, Icarus, flying, waves so innocently as wax drips to his leg and sweat to his chin

That down in his twisted fates comes our own hopes, and end to such classics all too rife -

While, below, a dismal and destructive whirlpool of pain forms from the winds of Dido's strife

Such that one begs not for joy but for just enough silence to hear the drop of a pin.

Yet a subtle satisfaction like Sinon himself slithers into the shelves of the soul

And, like the twin serpents of Tenedos, strangles impracticality,

Creating among us Latin scholars not a spoken but rather tacit and unbreakable devotion

To the progress of that which is and will continue to be dead as coal

But can likewise be used to fuel the intellectual fires whose ashes stir profound emotion.

And it is for such profundity that I, ever conscious of my loss, choose to drown in such a sea.

RANDOM ROMAN FACTS

Sometimes gladiator blood was recommended by Roman physicians as an aid to fertility.

Roman statesman Cato the Elder urged that babies should be bathed in the warmed-up urine produced by an adult who had eaten cabbage. If a child would not settle to sleep, he recommended placing goat dung in its diaper.

Ancient Romans believed that seeing an owl was a bad omen, sniffing cyclamen flowers would prevent baldness, and ringing bells eased the pain of childbirth. The presence of bees, which were considered sacred messengers of the gods, were seen as a sign of good luck.

January is named after the Roman god of beginnings, Janus, who has two faces—one looking back to the old year and the other looking forward to the new year.

Wealthy Roman women would smear lead paste on their faces to look fashionably pale. They might also use donkey's milk or crushed snails as a facial moisturizer. Crushed ant eggs were often used to highlight women's eyebrows.

Slaves could be tortured for styling hair poorly.

MS Best of Show

The Legend of Cloelia and the Runaway Slave, 21013

Eucladies craned his neck, trying desperately to see the master's villa. It was the dead of night, and the moon shone brightly overhead, illuminating the slave's silhouette with a soft glow, and casting strange shadows. He had been crouched in these bushes for hours, and he didn't think he could wait any longer. Finally, the torches throughout the villa were blown out, obscuring it from Eucladies' view. The time had come for him, and silently he arose. Then with one last hateful glance over at the dark villa, he scampered out of the bushes and broke into a run. He was finally escaping.

Sunlight streamed through the treetops, warming the mossy olive grove. Eucladies reluctantly opened his eyes. Around him birds sang and small animals happily scurried around in the warm summer air, but Eucladies remained sullen. Last night he had finally escaped his wicked master's clutch, and although he was thrilled to be free now, he was also sickened by the thought of being caught. Eucladies had gone to some measures as to not be recognized, like taking one of his master's toga praetextas, but he dreaded it wouldn't be enough. He knew the punishment that would be afflicted on him for running away, and that could easily include death. But he knew that he couldn't stand one more day with his evil master in that cursed villa. Sighing, he got up and decided to go the forum. As he was preparing to leave the grove, he noticed a girl standing between the trees. She was wearing a tattered tunica and looked like she had been in a fight, and she was staring at him with wide, cautious eyes. Suddenly she broke out of her trance and advanced upon him.

"Who are you?" she seethed, teeth gritted.

Eucladies silently rehearsed his answer before safely giving his far from the truth explanation.

"My name is Eucladies. I traveled far from my land of Crete to come here, so that I may assist your king in all his business affairs, for I am a scribe. I have seemed to have gotten a bit lost, and now I was just on my way to the forum."

With that, the mysterious girl seemed to relax some. With a hostile voice she said, "My name is Cloelia. I'm afraid my story is that of a dreadful one, and I do not wish to go into it right now. I will say that my name is well known around here, so you will probably hear about my story sooner or later. But now I must continue on my way." With that, Cloelia turned on her heel and disappeared into the brush as quickly as she had appeared. Awestruck by this perplexing girl and her baffling story, Eucladies impulsively began to chase after her.

"Wait!" he cried out, finally catching up. "I was wondering if maybe you could show me around Rome, as I don't know the area very well," he lied. Warily Cloelia smiled and faintly nodded, motioning him to follow her. He ran behind her, trying desperately to keep up with her long strides. At last they broke out of the grove, and began the rest of the journey on the Appian Way, heading straight into the heart of Rome.

As they were walking along the famous road, Eucladies decided to take advantage of the situation and find out more about Cloelia.

"So," he began, "since I am a praclarus civis I think I deserve to know just who I am traveling with." No sooner had he finished speaking when a Roman soldier, riding on a cisium, began shouting at him.

"HALT!" the soldier cried out. Confused, Eucladies began to turn around, when suddenly Cloelia grabbed his arm and began running. Eucladies could hear the shouts of the soldiers becoming fainter as Cloelia kept dragging him, trying to lose them. When they had run a safe distance, she pulled him into a dense wooded area, and collapsed. When the blood had stopped pounding in his ears and his breath was somewhat normal again, Eucladies furiously turned to Cloelia.

"WHAT WAS THAT?!" he demanded. "Why did they stop us, and why did you run?" A million thoughts flooded his mind. He looked at Cloelia, who was crouched up against a tree, panting and crying. Seeing her in such a state, Eucladies added in a much softer tone,

"Who are you?"

Slowly, Cloelia turned and faced him, eyes red. She took a shaky breath, and then managed a weak smile.

"I told you I would cause you trouble." Sighing, she pulled herself up. Then she began her story.

"As you know, there has been a war going on. Well one of the leaders, Porsenna, said he would pull out all of his troops from Rome, but only if he got hostages in return. Well I was one of those hostages. I heard of the legendary hero, Marcius, and I was inspired by him. I realized that the Tiber River was near the Etruscan camp that I was being held captive at, so a group of other hostages and I decided to escape. I led the group and we eluded the guards and swam across the river, through a shower of spears, to freedom. And now I am hearing that Porsenna is demanding my return, but I'm afraid he will kill me for my escape. So that's why the soldiers are after me, and why I must not be caught."

Stunned into silence, Eucladies processed all of this. Then he stood up and hovered over Cloelia.

"Don't worry," he said. "I too am a runaway. I'm a slave, and I escaped my wicked master. If we stick together, I'm sure we will be alright."

With that Eucladies took Cloelia's hand and helped her to her feet. Then they continued on their way to the forum, like nothing had ever happened. As they finally walked the last stretch of the way and entered the forum, Eucladies noticed a group of soldiers surrounding a statue. It was made of stone and was of a girl on a horse, and as everyone began surrounding it, he noticed some distinct familiar features on the face of the statue. Then with great realization he saw that it was the face of Cloelia. He looked at her, and he knew it was true because Cloelia was also staring at the statue wondrously. Suddenly a soldier emerged from behind the statue and stepped forward.

"Cloelia," he said, "I work for Porsenna, and he has become aware of your escape, and your heroic deeds. Do not be alarmed, because he found what you did to be an act of courage, and wanted to reward you with this statue so that all will know of your bravery." Eucladies stared at Cloelia, and thought of her legendary story. He sighed, wishing he could perform some type of heroic act to show his bravery as well. Suddenly, as if he was reading his mind, his wicked master stepped slowly from the crowd and began walking towards him. Eucladies froze, terrorized by his master's icy glare. He glanced at the statue and then back at Cloelia, and suddenly he was filled with courage and was no longer afraid. As his former master came to him, Eucladies stood with cool calmness and looked him straight in the eye.

"Eucladies!" his master bellowed, suddenly becoming enraged. Still Eucladies held his ground and replied with a calm, "Salve, master".

He then began, saying, "I know I have run away from you in such a cowardly manner, and I never stood up for myself when I was with you. But now Cloelia has inspired me, and I'm standing here before you today to say that I refuse to work for you anymore, and kill me if you must, but I will never do another task for you again."

With that, Eucladies turned his back on his red-faced, furious master and walked to Cloelia.

"Thank you," he said, "for teaching me the lesson of bravery and courage."

Cloelia smiled, and then turning to the guard she added, "Tell Porsenna that because of my courage he can reward me in making sure Eucladies' former master does not ever touch him, because from now on I declare him a free man." Then she took Eucladies' hand, and added with a soft laugh, "Now let me show you around Rome!"

MODERN MYTH RESULTS: 2013

Upper A

- 1st– 72010, Laura Berardi, "Snow", Providence High School
- 2nd– 29014, Gracie Gharthey-Tagoe, "Lightening and Lava", Charlotte Latin School
- 2nd (tie)– 29009, Hank Ellison, "The Moon and the Stars", Charlotte Latin School
- 3rd– 76096, Stephanie Sigmon, "Hiccoughs", West Rowan High School
- 4th– 46024, Bradley Caswell, "The Story of the First Ant", T.C. Roberson High School
- 5th– 29032, Ali Ozmeral, "A Shriveled Plan", Charlotte Latin School

Upper B

- 1st– 27044, Peter Saunders, "Clever Danny Crenshaw", Covenant Day High School
- 2nd– 27042, Ann Pearson, "Erin and the Ticket of Discord", Covenant Day High School
- 3rd– 72063, Sydnea Rineheart, "Without Wings", Providence High School
- 3rd (tie)– 72047, Katelyn Liu, "Keep Your Head Down", Providence High School
- 4th– 72069, Fiona Shauger, "Man Fallacy", Providence High School
- 5th– 76056, Nicholas Watson, "The Perfect Rose", West Rowan High School

Upper C

- 1st– 29003, Alison Bonner, "Full Moon Night", Charlotte Latin School
- 2nd– 76104, Catherine Euchner, "The Continuation of the Tale of Europa and Her Children", West Rowan High School
- 3rd– 29015, Alexis Giger, "The Bargain", Charlotte Latin School
- 4th– 72037, Stephen Idol, "Mendacium Primum", Providence High School

Middle A

- 1st– 72061, Madeline Rayfield, "The Cautionary Tale of Jerkuis the Trickster", Providence High School
- 2nd– 27046, Laura Snider, "Shooting Stars", Covenant Day High School
- 3rd– 27017, Natalia Dahlgren, "The Creation of the Seven Continents", Covenant Day High School
- 4th– 27004, Bess Blackburn, "Why the Tiger Has His Stripes", Covenant Day High School
- 5th– 27002, Claire Bellina, "How the Sea Came to Be", Covenant Day High School

Middle B

- 1st– 76015, Jessie Gada, "The Owner of the Apple", West Rowan High School
- 2nd– 29023, Morgan Levy, "The Fastest Horse in the West", Charlotte Latin School
- 3rd– 29036, Marshall Rich, "Racing Towards Legend", Charlotte Latin School
- 4th– 27011, Claudia Carpenter, "An Unaccompanied Miner", Covenant Day High School
- 5th– 72055, Adam Pacholski, "The Founding of Rome", Providence High School

Middle C

- 1st– 55065, Owen P. Wood, "Creation of the Basilisk", Mount Tabor High School
- 1st (tie)– 76024, Matthew Langford, "The Tale of Cerberus", West Rowan High School
- 2nd– 27034, Stewart Kepper, "Sisyphus's Journey", Covenant Day High School
- 3rd– 27040, Abigail Olive, "Promising Green", Covenant Day High School
- 4th– 76054, Patrick Waldo, "The Un-told Tale of Odysseus", West Rowan High School
- 5th– 76053, Kathryn Swaim, "Daphne and Orpheus", West Rowan High School

Lower A

- 1st– 72012, Rebecca Taylor, "Why the Crow is Black?", Thales Academy Junior High WF
- 2nd– 21159, Jackson Moseley, "The Destructive Winds", Covenant Day Middle School
- 3rd– 11009, Courtney Carlock, "The Warmth from Within", Caldwell Academy Middle School
- 4th– 11031, Emily Liebkemann, "The Raccoon Moon", Caldwell Academy Middle School
- 5th– 21143, Ben Johnson, "The Flew", Covenant Day Middle School
- 5th (tie)– 21119, Amadea Dancu, "Amazon", Covenant Day Middle School

Lower B

- 1st– 21116, Sarah Dahlberg, "Abigail's Gift", Covenant Day Middle School
- 2nd– 31007, Emily Brown, "Battle of the Voices", Greensboro Day School
- 3rd– 21106, Michael Bose, "Perseus v. Medusa", Covenant Day Middle School
- 4th– 41013, Susanna Schoeck, "A Tragic Love Affair", Master's Academy Middle
- 5th– 21112, Cameron Collins, "The Ink, the Paper, and the Closet", Covenant Day Middle School

Lower C

- 1st– 33006, Will Hanna, "Why did Mount Vesuvius Erupt?", Trinity Academy of Raleigh
- 2nd– 11004, Hannah Bauswell, "Carrettia's Folly and Fate", Caldwell Academy Middle School
- 3rd– 33004, Piper Finley, "The Beginning of a Dream", Trinity Academy of Raleigh
- 4th– 21154, Sophie Lindner, "The Weave-Off", Covenant Day Middle School

NCJCL Multimedia Results 2013: High School

AUDIO

1st = # 74056 (Christine Slate Kimel, Reagan HS)
2nd = # 72004 (Nathan Anderson, Providence HS)
3rd = # 20742 (Annie Pearson, Covenant Day HS)
4th = # 27022 (Logan Foltz, Covenant Day HS)

VIDEO

1st = # 27047 (Christa Stamler, Covenant Day HS)
2nd = # 27033 (Ashley Kaika, Covenant Day HS)
3rd = # 28005 (Rose O'Brien, RJ Reynolds HS)
4th = # 27013 (Cameron Church, Covenant Day HS)
5th = # 28007 (Elizabeth Anthony, RJ Reynolds)

SLIDE SHOW

1st = # 27032 (Allison Kaika, Covenant Day HS)
2nd = # 27037 (Matthew McKnight, Covenant Day HS)
3rd (tie) = # 27016 (Jonathan Dabbs, Covenant Day HS)
27030 (Brister Jones, Covenant Day HS)
4th = # 27008 (Amelia Brumwell, Covenant Day HS)
5th = # 58014 (Michael Founds, Caldwell Academy)

NEWSPAPER

1st = # 76041 (Kaylyn Pogson, West Rowan HS)
2nd = # 27054 (Joe Yardley, Covenant Day HS)
3rd = # 76064 (Emily Beaver, West Rowan HS)

Latin Jumble

In the mythical country of Borschland, newspapers carry a word puzzle that is as popular as a crossword puzzle in the United States. Try your hand at it!

Unscramble the sentence to make a grammatically correct Latin sentence. Translate the sentence accurately. The sentence may refer to an ancient story. If so, use your knowledge of the story to guide you to the correct translation.

Latin I: semper sub cum navem flumen terram navigabis trans spiritis

Latin II: Apollonis rapuerat bovis rex nuntio de quas rogavit deorum

Latin III and above: Gallis Romam arcis dicunt anseres collem servavisse ascendentibus poetae

Learn more about Borschland at:
<http://www.breakfastwithpandora.com>

NCJCL Multimedia Results 2013: Middle School

SLIDE SHOW:

1st PLACE: 11034, Haley Martin, Caldwell Academy
2nd PLACE: 11046, Sam McIntosh, Caldwell Academy
3rd PLACE (TIE): 21031, Macy Henry, Covenant Day
31020, Clark Phillips, Greensboro Day
4th PLACE: 31007, Emily Brown, Greensboro Day
5th PLACE (TIE): 11032, Kate Loseke, Caldwell Academy
31010, Luke Hayes, Greensboro Day

MOVIE:

1st PLACE: 41002, Burgin Bentley, Master's Academy
2nd PLACE: 11038, John Norris, Caldwell Academy
3rd PLACE: 31022, Gray Rucker, Greensboro Day
4th PLACE: 31011, Penny Hazlett, Greensboro Day
5th PLACE: 31024, Levi Smith, Greensboro Day

AUDIO

1st PLACE: 81001, Adam Alguire, Lakewood Montessori

SLOGAN CONTEST RESULTS: 2013

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1st – 31007, Emily Brown, Greensboro Day
“The Roman road from yesterday will lead you to tomorrow.”
2nd – 31026, Morgan Winstead, Greensboro Day
3rd – 31004, Emily Beane, Greensboro Day
4th - 31019, Isabel Paris, Greensboro Day
5th - 31027, Sophie Dalldorf, Greensboro Day

HIGH SCHOOL – 10th & 11th GRADE:

1st – 58033, Michael Robinson, Caldwell Academy
“Betty White....the only thing older than Latin.”
2nd – 95008, Ryan Caudill, Hoggard HS
3rd - 58034, Carley Schlentz, Caldwell Academy
4th - 77025, Mary McMorrow, St. Thomas More Academy
5th - 58014, Michael Founds, Caldwell Academy

HIGH SCHOOL – 11th & 12th GRADE:

1st – 76014, Catherine Euchner, West Rowan
“Latin is a zombie language: undead and extremely contagious.”
2nd – 76001, Berkely Alessandri, West Rowan
3rd – 76107, Todd Gabriel, West Rowan
4th – 76097, Noah Sihrath, West Rowan
5th – 76079, Tyler Kennedy, West Rowan

CHARIOT DESIGN—2013

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st Caldwell
 2nd Thales WF
 3rd Charlotte Christian

HIGH SCHOOL

1st West Rowan
 2nd Enka

N I H C T X Q E W O D P A Z N T
 G A S K A M F D B R G G J A A I
 C K I U W L O T D Z R I I W J B
 M C L R L K I C N M E S C E A E
 P T T H D A L G Y P A P T D R R
 T H Q V B A B P U P B Q H N T I
 Y B T Y U L H A S L P F M A C U
 B Z B D D W V E G A A O Y I J S
 T F I V Z P V X F A R O V T Q G
 A U G U S T U S C E L N T E J O
 S U D O M M O C N X N E I L A U
 K J C J N Q O K M Z F M H C V D
 P S L W A U H G J P V F W O C L
 Z Z T Q I I R L L N P G Q I T W
 O L E N I T N A T S N O C D G S
 J G C Q Q T H J T U E T S T Y A

AUGUSTUS
 COMMODUS
 ELAGABALUS
 TIBERIUS

CALIGULA
 CONSTANTINE
 HADRIAN
 TRAJAN

CLAUDIUS
 DIOCLETIAN
 NERO
 VESPASIAN

		VIII	VI	IV	II			
			VIII	V		IX		
	V			I		VIII	VII	
		III		II		V	I	
	VI				VIII		IX	
IV							II	
	II	I		VIII	V			IV
	VII	V	II	VI	IV	I	VIII	
			VII					V

Roman Sudoku!

www.romansudoku.blogspot.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st: Master's Academy
 2nd: Covenant Day

HIGH SCHOOL

1st: Master's Academy
 2nd: Providence HS

Roman Jokes To Make You Groan

Why is Nerva paranoid?
 He had a Nero death experience!

What kind of footwear does a Greek
 god wear?

Tennis Zeus.

CREATIVE WRITING RESULTS – 2013: MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st place - 21013 -The Legend of Cloelia and the Runaway Slave - by Reanna Brooks of Covenant Day
1st place (tie) -41017 - All Roads Lead to Rome - by Katherine Welch of Master's Academy
1st place (tie) - 11021 -A Soldier's Journey - by Nicolas Frens of Caldwell Academy

2nd - 41012 - Aurelia's Adventure - by Laura Schoeck of Master's Academy
2nd (tie) - 11043 - Tillia's Joyous Day - by Elizabeth Riddle of Caldwell Academy

3rd -31019 - Traveling Letter - by Isabel Paris of Greensboro Day School
3rd (tie) -21046 - Alaina's Journey - by Carlee Pierce of Covenant Day School

4th - 41010 - The Road to Rome - by Aric Ritenbaugh of Master's Academy
4th (tie) 41011 - The Journey - by Jarod Ritenbaugh of Master's Academy
4th (tie) - 31008 - Felicia's Travel Journal - by Kate Calhoun of Greensboro Day School

5th - 21048 - Paris' Journey: A Legend - by Libby Rau of Covenant Day
5th (tie) - 21052 - The Son on the Wall - by Ben Smith of Covenant Day

CREATIVE WRITING RESULTS - 2013: HIGH SCHOOL

9th Grade

1st -58036 - Gracyn Smith/ Caldwell Academy -A Story Of Travel In Rome
1st (tie) -24008 -Caroline Wolfe/Master's Academy - Adventure on the High Sea
2nd - 58022- Madison Kimble/Caldwell Academy - Untitled
3rd - 76005 - Kayla Blackburn/West Rowan HS - The Strange Day

10th Grade

1st- 29042 -Matthew Sparks/Charlotte Latin - A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Tarentum
1st (tie) - 29046 - Jack Wrigley/Charlotte Latin - Journal of Cai Qiang
2nd -72016 - Ben Buttles /Providence HS- The Vestal Fire Iron
3rd - 76024 -Matthew Langford/West Rowan HS – Slaying Scylla
4th -76053 -Kathryn Swaim/West Rowan HS - a Soldier's Journey To Actium
5th -27048 -Hunter Stilwell/Covenant Day School- First Gladiator Fight
5th(tie)- 17049 -Abby Traywick/Covenant Day School - My Journey
5th (tie)- 76015 - Jessie Gada/West Rowan HS - The Journey to Aunt Melissa's

11th Grade

1st -76064 -Baby Beaver/West Rowan HS - We Will Become Silhouettes
2nd- 69006- Thomas Farina/Queen's Grant HS - Potestas
3rd- 76006 -Jacob Bogle/West Rowan HS -Vesuvius Changed Everything and Nothing
4th -76046 -Kevin Shaver/West Rowan HS -The Eruption
5th -76022 -Chelsea Hatfield/West Rowan HS - What's In A Name?

12th Grade

1st - 76056- Nicholas Watson/West Rowan HS - The Travels of An Ancient Roman
2nd - 76016-Kimmy Gada/West Rowan HS - The Fires of Fate
3rd - 72005 -Rylee Aquilanti/ Providence HS - Night Road
4th - 76007- David Bonilla/ West Rowan HS - The Last Great Adventure
5th - 76045- Emily Satterwhite/ West Rowan HS- The New Journey

Latin Phrases You Will Never Use

Uh-oh, here comes the lobster man!
Eheu, horsum venit vir qui fert locustas!

My dessert is on fire!
Mensa secunda mea flagrat!

School Name: Charlotte Latin School
Student's Name: Matthew Sparks
Sponsor's Name: Ms. McQuaid
ID# 29042
Grade Level: 10
Level of Latin: Latin III

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Tarentum...

Rome, 42 B.C.:

Oats, hay ... a little brushing, and then, the harness. Such is the life of a horse. More specifically, a Roman horse. My name is Domitius and I am a horse owned by a man whom I have heard called Spurius Cornelius Bibulus. People call him Senator and a lot of other things that I don't understand - I just know they do it in loud voices, with nasty looks on their faces and the women seem very upset when they do. I used to be named Celerrimus, when I pulled chariots at the Circus Maximus, but I got too old. Please don't feel sorry for me - most of my chariot friends have gone to the "great circus in the sky" so I feel very lucky to be around to share my story. Now I live with Spurius and his family in Rome. He has a wife named Allecto and a son named Fabiolus. Fabiolus is almost always accompanied by a man named Aristocles, who I have heard called his "teacher slave." Aristocles speaks a bit differently from the others and I have heard them say he is "Greek." They say it as though it were a disease of some sort, like hoof and mouth, but I like him. He always talks to me in his odd-sounding way and scratches my forehead when he sees me. Allecto is quite beautiful, with long flowing hair, but she seems to need a lot of attention and yells at her slave girls constantly to brush her hair and fan her when it's hot. I have heard that her marriage to Spurius was "in manu" which they say means that she became a member of his family and has no rights whatsoever. Her job is apparently to have children and nothing else. I have also heard Spurius yell at her because she was only able to have one child as opposed to the two that are apparently expected of Roman women. As if that weren't bad enough, the only one she could produce was Fabiolus and he is no prize. Little Fabiolus is a smaller version of his father - fat, stupid (despite the efforts of Aristocles) and vain. His name means "little bean" and it seems appropriate given the malodor that seems to accompany him wherever he goes. Think about it - I'm a horse and I notice. We are about to embark on the family's annual trip to Tarentum to see Spurius' family and I could not be less enthused. Some families should just stay at home. Soon, I will be harnessed to the family's raeda and we will set out for two weeks of very uncomfortable travel. The raeda will be driven by a man named Mucius, who seems to go everywhere Spurius goes. I don't know where he came from, but he is always staring at Allecto and talking to her when Spurius is not around.

Later that day ...

We have been on the road for several hours and the fun has already begun. Allecto is complaining about the dust and little Fabiolus' "ambience." Based on the conversation, it is clear that the family consulted a soothsayer before leaving on this trip, which is apparently the custom for well-to-do Romans. Allecto is suggesting that, not only should they get their fee back from the seer, but that Spurius should use his great influence to arrange a colorful and painful demise for that person. Something about a "Colosseum" and "gladiators." Spurius is well into his third magnum of wine, so his solution is to tell Allecto to either shut up or walk, which would be fine with me - one less passenger means less weight for me. If nothing else, I thank Jupiter for the quality of the Roman roads. Speaking as one who pulls heavy vehicles for a living, one cannot underestimate the value of solid, level, well-maintained roads. I also enjoy the scenery (believe me, it's much better than the conversation behind me). I always enjoy the hills as we leave Rome. The Capitoline is one of my favorites, with the temple of Jupiter at one end and the temple of Juno at the Arx. I also love the Palatine, with its beautiful palaces and gardens. Aristocles calmly attempts to keep Fabiolus on track with his lessons, which is no small feat, given that Fabiolus has no interest in anything beyond his next meal. Reading from his scrolls, Aristocles makes Fabiolus copy the lessons on a wax-covered wooden board so he will remember the information.

Even later that day ...

It's getting late, - Spurius has passed out and Fabiolus has asked "are we there yet" for the thousandth time. The good roads don't make up for the dust and discomfort of traveling in an open-air wagon and even I am getting tired. Mucius, ever the gentleman, invited Allecto to sit up front to escape Spurius snoring and take in the fresh air. I'm not sure what happened, but after a few minutes, I heard a loud smack and the raeda stopped abruptly. Allecto got down, stomped back to join her family and we continued on our way. After that, Mucius seemed much rougher on the reins and more inclined to use the whip. He also used a lot of those words that I mentioned earlier.

Evening ...

We have gone as far as we can, and, knowing no one in the vicinity, have stopped at a small inn in Aricia to rest for the night. The family disembarked, led by the stumbling Spurius, who loudly proclaimed his senatorial status to anyone within earshot. The stable boy was kind and fed me a hearty dinner, after which I had clean straw on which to rest. Aristocles slept in my stall and gave me a good head scratch before I went to sleep.

The next morning ...

In the morning, everyone was in the most foul humor, except Aristocles, who was calm and seemed even mildly amused by his dysfunctional traveling companions. Spurius complained that his head hurt, Allecto went on at length about the accommodations being fit only for a pig and both of them were angry at Fabiolus for oversleeping, overeating and whining constantly about being something called "bored." Mucius has said little and seems to have a large, purple spot on his face.

Later that day ...

Spurius was in the midst of telling a story from his military days in which, during the Gallic War, his century was isolated and surrounded by Gauls, but bravely and heroically fought their way out. At this point, Fabiolus interrupted to ask why Spurius' army friends always referred to him as "asina" when he was not around. I don't know what that means, but Mucius was laughing so hard that we nearly went off the road and Spurius let fly with a string of those words that seem to make the women so uncomfortable. Some time later, we were stopped by bandits who looked menacing, but didn't really seem to know what to do. They made everyone get out and waved their swords in a threatening manner, after which they just stood there. They finally turned to Mucius and said "We forget - who are we supposed to kill?" When Mucius feigned confusion, they reminded him "Remember, you paid us to rob you so you could save the woman?" At that point, they looked at one another and said "Oh yes, were are supposed to kill the fat one so you can have the woman!"

Solution

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+ S + + + + A S + S U + R E + +
+ T + + + G T U U L P D + + R +
+ U + + A + S D A I A A + + + O
+ S + L + + N O + H D + S + + +
+ + E + + + O M + + + U + I + +
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Just a reminder– this year's
National Convention is at UNLV in
Nevada! Who's going?



Salvete omnes!

State Convention is finally here. Now it will all pay off; the endless hours of Certamen studying, conjugating and declining the most obscure forms of irregular verbs, losing sleep over what Latin words should be painted on the chariot, and wondering how exactly you can make your costume most lifelike. And now it begins! May you run like Atalanta in the Olympika, have the wisdom of Minerva in Certamen, the talent of Apollo in the skit competition, and the skills of Homer in dramatic interpretation. So go forth, and when you return to your *domum*, look back on the day and utter the timeless words, "*Veni, vidi, vici!*" I will leave you with a few Latin curses which I'm sure you will use.

Valete!
Michael Bono
Torch Editor

Useful Latin Curses

May you always misuse the subjunctive!
Utinam modo subiunctivo semper abutaris!

May barbarians invade your personal space!
Utinam barbari spatium proprium tuum invadant!