

CATULLUS PROJECT

THE INTERPRETER

Guidelines

The Late-Republican poet, Catullus, has become most famous for the poems he wrote detailing his passionate love affair with the mysteriously titled “Lesbia.” His lyric technique was exceptional for its time and, like Vergil’s *Aeneid*, served to bridge the gap from Greek literature to a new and independent Roman style of writing.

Each year, Loyola University in Maryland used to sponsor a competition called *The Interpreter* to judge English interpretations of classical Latin literature. As a summer assignment (and test grade), I am asking you to each work on a different poem of Catullus.

The text will be judged primarily (1) on style and elegance, (2) effectiveness in conveying not just the meaning but the nuances, subtleties and flavor of the original, and (3) facility with English and the art of translation as much as ability in Latin.

Bona Fortuna, Discipulī et Discipulae!

Due Date

You must submit your translation by **Monday, August 26, 2024** via **Canvas** (Join Code: ARHPNE).

Summer Reading

Catullus, Gaius Valerius. Edited by Daniel H. Garrison. *The Student’s Catullus*. 3rd edition. Vol. 5. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013.

Rent E-Book for \$26.93 from Amazon: <https://a.co/d/iaAUXnN>

Poem Assignments

Your poem assignments are listed below. Attached to this document are the texts of your poem and accompanying notes! You must rent or purchase the *Student’s Catullus* to aid in your research and translation. To the right of your poems, you will see the accepted standard translation from the [Loeb Classical Library](#). Make your translation a zippy version with modern allusions in colloquial English. Capture the sense and intent of Catullus’ poetry, but lend your own perspective and experience to it.

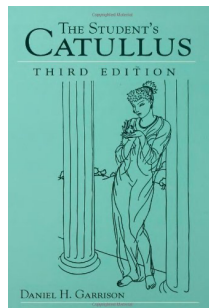
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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Jeremy Clark, Poem 2 | ◆ Bea Marchesani, Poem 44 |
| ◆ Skyy Greenwood, Poem 7 | ◆ Molly Murphy, Poem 46 |
| ◆ Bridget Kelly, Poem 13 | ◆ Vincent Scodellaro, Poem 72 |
| ◆ Sophia Kluck, Poem 35 | ◆ Brianna Wright, Poem 107 |
| ◆ Liam Lennon, Poem 36 | |

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Student-Teacher Contract

By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I am aware of the deadlines and requirements outlined in the syllabus for the Honors Latin IV Summer Assignment.



Summer Reading

Catullus, Gaius Valerius. Edited by Daniel H. Garrison. *The Student's Catullus*. 3rd edition. Vol. 5. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013: <https://a.co/d/iaAUXnN>.

**Signed Contract
Catullus Project**

Fri., May 10
Mon., August 26

Submit to Canvas
Submit to Canvas

Print Name

Student Signature

Date

Student Name: Jeremy Clark
Catullus, Poem 2

To Her Sparrow

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 nescio quid lubet iocari,
et solaciolum sui doloris,
credo, ut tum gravis acquiescat ardor:
tecum ludere sicut ipsa possem.
et tristis animi levare curas!

...
tam gratum est mihi quam ferunt puellae
pernici aureolum fuisse malum,
quod zonam soluit diu ligatam.

II

SPARROW, my lady's pet, with whom she often plays whilst she holds you in her lap, or gives you her fingertip to peck and provokes you to bite sharply, whenever she, the bright-shining lady of my love, has a mind for some sweet pretty play, in hope, as I think, that when the sharper smart of love abates, she may find some small relief from her pain—ah, might I¹ but play with you as she does, and lighten the gloomy cares of my heart!

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

2. **quicum**: an old alternative for the ablative **quocum**.
5. **cum**: the conjunction (when) rather than the preposition (with).
7. The text of the poem becomes disturbed from about this point. It is unclear whether **solaciolum** is a subject or object because it lacks a verb. Quinn understands it as an extension of **carum nescio quid**. The diminutive **-olum** is colloquial, giving a sense of intimacy, as often in Catullus.

Student Name: Skyy Greenwood
Catullus, Poem 7

How Many Kisses

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.

VII

YOU ask how many kissings of you, Lesbia, are enough for me and more than enough. As great as is the number of the Libyan sand that lies on silphium-bearing Cyrene, between the oracle of sultry Jove and the sacred tomb of old Battus; or as many as are the stars, when night is silent, that see the stolen loves of men,—to kiss you with so many kisses, Lesbia, is enough and more than enough for your mad Catullus; kisses, which neither curious eyes shall count up nor an evil tongue bewitch.

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

3. **quam:** half of the correlative with *tam* (line 9); likewise with the *quam* on line 7.
9. **te:** Subject Accusative in Indirect Statement with *basiare*.
11. **quae:** “so that/to”
12. **possint:** subjunctive verb in a relative clause of purpose.

Student Name: Bridger Kelly
Catullus, Poem 13

Invitation

Cenabis bene, mi Fabulle, apud me
paucis, si tibi di favent, diebus —
si tecum attuleris bonam atque magnam
cenam, non sine candida puella
et vino et sale et omnibus cachinnis;
haec si, inquam, attuleris, venuste noster,
cenabis bene; nam tui Catulli
plenus sacculus est aranearum.
Sed contra accipies meros amores,
seu quid suavius elegantiusve est:
nam unguentum dabo, quod meae puellae
donarunt Veneres Cupidinesque;
quod tu cum olfacies, deos rogabis,
totum ut te faciant, Fabulle, nasum.

XIII

5 You shall have a good dinner at my house, Fabullus, in a few
days, please the gods, if you bring with you a good dinner and
plenty of it, not forgetting a pretty girl and wine and wit and all
kinds of laughter. If, I say, you bring all this, my charming friend,
you shall have a good dinner; for the purse of your Catullus is full of
cobwebs. But on the other hand you shall have from me love's very
10 essence, or what is sweeter or more delicious than love, if sweeter
there be; for I will give you some perfume which the Venuses and
Loves gave to my lady; and when you snuff its fragrance, you will
pray the gods to make you, Fabullus, nothing but nose.

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

1. **apud me**, like French *chez moi*, is idiomatic: at my place.
2. **paucis ... diebus**: the vagueness of the invitation is part of the joke, as is the parenthetical qualification **si tibi di favent**.
5. **sale** plays on two meanings, salt and wit. Besides food, Fabullus will have to bring everything else that makes a dinner party successful.

Student Name: Sophia Kluck
Catullus, Poem 35

An Invitation to Caecilius

Poetae tenero, meo sodali,
velim Caecilio, papyre, dicas
Veronam veniat, Novi relinquens
Comi moenia Lariumque litus.
Nam quasdam volo cogitationes
amici accipiat sui meique.
Quare si sapiet viam vorabit,
quamvis candida milies puella
euntem revocet, manusque collo
ambas iniciens roget morari.
Quae nunc, si mihi vera nuntiantur,
ilium deperit impotente amore.
Nam quo tempore legit incohatam
Dindymi dominam, ex eo misellae
ignes interiorem edunt medullam.
Ignosco tibi, Sapphica puella
musa doctior; est enim venuste
Magna Caecilio incohata Mater.

XXXV

5 I ASK you, papyrus page, to tell the gentle poet, my friend
Caecilius, to come to Verona, leaving the walls of Novum Comum
and the shore of Larius: for I wish him to receive certain thoughts
of a friend of his and yours.¹ Wherefore if he is wise he will devour
the way with haste, though his fair lady should call him back a
thousand times, and throwing both her arms round his neck beg
10 him to delay. She now, if a true tale is brought to me, dotes on him
with passionate
love. For since she read the beginning of his "Lady of Dindymus,"
ever since then, poor girl, the fires have been wasting her inmost
marrow. I can feel for you, maiden more scholarly than the Sapphic
15 Muse; for Caecilius has indeed made a lovely beginning to his
"Magna Mater."

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

2. **velim ... dicas:** optative subjunctives of polite request: I should like you to tell.
3. **Veronam:** to Verona; the preposition is regularly omitted with names of cities.
14. **Dindymi dominam:** i.e., Cybele, the Asiatic goddess whose worship Catullus himself describes in poem 63: hence, no doubt, his particular interest. **eo:** sc. **tempore.**

Student Name: Liam Lennon
Catullus, Poem 36

A Book Fit For Burning

Annales Volusi, cacata carta,
votum solvite pro mea puella.
nam sanctae Veneri Cupidinique
vovit, si sibi restitutus essem
desissemque truces vibrare iambos, 5
electissima pessimi poetae
scripta tardipedi deo daturam
infelicibus ustulanda lignis.
et hoc pessima se puella vidit 10
iocose, lepide, vovere divis
nunc o caeruleo creata ponto,
quae sanctum Idalium Uriosque apertos
quaeque Ancona Cnidumque harundinosam
colis quaeque Amathunta quaeque Golgos
quaeque Durrachium, Hadriae tabernam 15
acceptum face redditumque votum,
si non illepidum neque invenustum est.
at vos interea venite in ignem,
pleni ruris et infacetiarum
annales Volusi, cacata carta 20

XXXVI

CHRONICLE of Volusius, shitty sheets, discharge a vow on behalf of my love; for she vowed to holy Venus and to Cupid that if I were restored to her love and ceased to dart fierce iambics, she would give to the lamb-footed god and choicest writings of the worst of poets, to be burnt with wood from some accursed tree: and my lady perceived that these were the “worst poems” that she was vowing to the merry gods in pleasant sport.¹ Now therefore, O thou whom the blue sea bare, who inhibitest holy Idalium and open Urii, who dwellest in Ancona and reedy Cnidus and in Amathus and in Golgi, and in Dyrhachium the meeting-place of all Hadria, record the vow as received and duly paid, so surely as it is not out of taste nor inelegant. But meanwhile, into the fire with you, you bundle of rusticity and clumsiness, chronicle of Volusius, shitty sheets!

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

1. **Volusi:** Genitive. Volusius was an epic poet;
cacata: 4th principal part of *caco*; modifies *carta*.
7. **daturam:** sc. *se* and *esse* for indirect statement set up by *vovit* (line 4).
8. **ustulanda:** “to be burned”; gerundive modifying *scripta* (line 7).
9. **se vovere:** Indirect Statement set up by *vidit*.
11. Beginning of a prayer to Venus.
12. **quae:** take with *colis* (line 14), “you who dwell/inhabit”.
- 12ff. *Idalium, Urii, Ancon, Cnidos, Amathus, Golgi, and Durrachium* were places sacred to Venus.
All are direct objects of *colis*;
apertos: with *Urios*;
harundinosam: with *Cnidum*;
Hadriae tabernam: in apposition with *Durrachium*, “the inn of the Adriatic Sea”.
16. **face:** imperative setting up indirect statement, “make it so *that...*”. Sc. *esse* with *acceptum* and *redditum*;
Subject Accusative of the indirect statement is *votum*.

Student Name: Bea Marchesani
Catullus, Poem 44

Thanks to my Villa, None to Sestius

O funde noster, seu Sabine seu Tiburs
(nam te esse Tiburtem autumant, quibus non est
cordi Catullum laedere; at quibus cordi est,
quovis Sabinum pignore esse contendunt),
sed seu Sabine sive verius Tiburs, 5
fui libenter in tua suburbana
villa, malamque pectore expuli tussim,
non inmerenti quam mihi meus venter,
dum sumptuosas appeto, dedit, cenas.
Nam Sestianus dum volo esse conviva, 10
orationem in Antium petitozem
plenam veneni et pestilentiae legi.
Hie me gravedo frigida et frequens tussis
quassavit usque dum in tuum sinum fugi,
et me recuravi otioque et urtica. 15
Quare refectus maximas tibi grates
ago, meum quod non es ulta peccatum.
Nec deprecor iam, si nefaria scripta
Sesti recepso, quin gravedinem et tussim
non mi, sed ipsi Sestio ferat frigus, 20
qui tunc vocat me, cum malum librum legi.

XLIV

MY farm, whether Sabine or Tiburtine (for those affirm that you are Tiburtine, who do not love to annoy Catullus, but those who do will wager anything that you are Sabine)—but at all events, whether you are Sabine or more rightly Tiburtine, I was glad to be in your retreat between town and country and to clear my chest of a nasty cough, which my greediness gave me (not undeservedly) whilst I was running after costly feasts. I wanted to go to dinner with Sestius, and so I read a speech of his against the candidate Antius, full of poison and plague. Thereupon a shivering chill and a constant cough shook me to pieces, till at last I fled to your bosom, and set myself right again by a diet of laziness and nettle broth. So now, having recovered, I return you my best thanks because you did not punish my error. And henceforth, if I ever again take in hand the abominable writings of Sestius, I freely consent that the chill shall bring catarrh and cough, not upon me, but upon Sestius himself, for only inviting me when I have read a nasty book.

Meter: limping iambs.

1. **Sabine, Tiburs:** vocative adjectives, Sabine or Tiburtine. Tibur (mod. Tivoli) was a fashionable address for summer homes; beyond it lay Sabine country, which was considered outside the pale and lacking in class. Catullus' place was in between, near the edge of town.
10. **Sestianus ... conviva:** a dinner guest of Sestius
11. **in Antium:** with **oratio, in + acc.** = against. **petitozem:** an office seeker, i.e., a candidate for election. Antius could be C Antius Restio, who proposed a sumptuary law that was passed soon after 78 B.C., restricting the freedom of officials to accept dinner invitations (which were seen as a corrupting influence).

Student Name: Molly Murphy
Catullus, Poem 46

Spring Travel

Iam ver egelidos refert tepores,
iam caeli furor aequinoctialis
iucundis Zephyri silescit aureis.
linquantur Phrygii, Catulle, campi
Nicaeaeque ager uber aestuosae:
ad claras Asiae volumus urbes.
iam mens praetrepidans avet vagari,
iam laeti studio pedes vigescunt.
o dulces comitum valet coetus,
longe quos simul a domo profectos
diversae varie viae reportant.

5

10

XLVI

Now spring brings back balmy warmth, now the sweet gales of Zephyr are hushing the rage of the equinoctial sky. Deserted be the Phrygian plains, Catullus, and the rich land of burning Nicaea: away let us fly to the renowned cities of Asia. Now my soul flutters in anticipation and yearns to stray; now my eager feet rejoice and grow strong. Farewell, dear bands of fellow travellers, who started together from your faraway home, and whom different ways from different directions are bringing back again.

Meter: hendecasyllabics.

3. **aureis:** an archaic spelling of *auris*; probably the form Catullus used.
4. **linquantur:** Jussive subjunctive.
10. **longe:** with *profectos*.

Student Name: Vincent Scodellaro
Catullus, Poem 72

Rufus' Unluck Rival

Dicebas quondam solum te nosse Catullum
Lesbia, nec prae me velle tenere Iovem.
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.

Meter: elegiacs.

1. **nosse:** *novisse*.
6. **mi:** *mihi*.
7. **amantem:** "lover".

LXXII

5 You used once to say that Catullus was your only friend, Lesbia, and that you would not prefer Jupiter himself to me. I loved you then, not only as the common sort love a mistress, but as a father loves his sons and sons-in-law. Now I know you; and therefore, though I burn more ardently, yet you are in my sight much less worthy and lighter. How can that be? you say. Because such an injury as this drives a lover to be more of a lover, but less of a friend.

Student Name: Brianna Wright
Catullus, Poem 107

Back With Lesbia

Si quicquam cupido optantique optigit umquam
 insperanti, hoc est gratum animo proprie.
quare hoc est gratum, nobis quoque, carius auro,
 quod te restituis, Lesbia, mi cupido.
restituisti cupido atque insperanti, ipsa refert te
 nobis. o lucem candidiore nota!
quis me uno vivit felicitior aut magis ° hac est
 optandus vita dicere quis poterit?

5

CVII

If anything ever happened to any one who eagerly longed and never hoped, that is a true pleasure to the mind. And so to me too this is a pleasure more precious than gold, that you, Lesbia, restore yourself to me who longed for you, restore to me who longed, but never hoped, yes, you yourself give yourself back to me. O happy day, blessed with the whiter mark! What living wight is more lucky than I; or who can say that any fortune in life is more desirable than this?

Meter: elegiacs.

- 1f. **cupido, optanti, insperanti:** Datives with *optigit*; sc. *viro*.
3. **nobis:** poetic plural; translate as “to me”;
carius: neuter comparative adjective modifying *hoc*;
auro: Ablative of comparison.
4. **mi:** *mihi*.
5. **refert:** 2nd person singular present.
6. **lucem:** Accusative of Exclamation.
7. **me uno:** Ablatives with comparative; sense is “than I who am uniquely so”.
- 7f. Problems in the manuscript. Translate *magis...poterit* something like “who is able to say that he has more to be hoped for than this life?”