

## 2023 VJCL DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

### Advanced Prose--Passage 1

Pliny Expresses His Disdain for the Races Pliny, *Epistulae*, IX.6 2-3

**Quō magis mīror tot milia virōrum tam puerīliter identidem cupere**  
How much more I am amazed that thousands of men, so sillily, constantly, want  
**currentēs equōs, īnsistentēs curribus hominēs vidēre.**  
to see running horses, people standing up on the chariots.

**Sī tamen aut vēlōcitāte equōrum aut hominum arte traherentur,**  
If nevertheless by the speed of the horses or the skill of the people, they were drawn in,  
**esset ratiō nōnnūlla.**  
there would some reason

**Nunc favent pannō, pannum amant,**  
now they favor a piece of cloth, they love the piece of cloth,  
**et sī in ipsō cursū mediōque certāmine**  
and if on the course itself and in the middle of the match

**hic color illūc, ille hūc trānsferātur,**  
this color should trade places with that one and that one with this one,  
**studium favorque trānsībit;**  
their passion and favor will cross over,

**et repente agitātōrēs illōs equōs illōs,**  
**quōs procul nōscitant,**  
**quōrum clāmitant nōmina, relinquent.**  
and suddenly those charioteers, those horses  
which that they recognized from far off,  
whose names they keep shouting they will abandon.

**Tanta grātia, tanta auctōritās in ūnā vīlissima tunicā, mittō apud vulgus,**  
**quod vīlius tunicā, sed apud quōsdam gravēs hominēs. ??**

**Quōs ego cum recordor, in rē inānī frīgidā assiduā, tam īnsatiābiliter dēsīdere,**  
**capiō aliquam voluptātem, quod hāc voluptāte nōn capior.**

Such popularity, such authority in one very cheap tunic, I don't say among the common crowd, which is worth less than the tunic, but among certain serious men; when I think about them sitting so insatiably in a matter which is futile, purposeless, and unceasing, I take some pleasure because I am not overtaken by this pleasure.

## 2023 VJCL DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

### Advanced Prose--Passage 2

**Halisca Has Misplaced a Little Basket\*** Plautus, *Cistellaria*, 678-694 (selections)

**HALISCA:**

**Meī hominēs,**                      **meī spectātōrēs,**                      **facite indicium,**                      **sī quis vīdit,**  
My people,                      my spectators,                      make a sign,                      if anyone saw

**quis eam abstulerit**                      **quisve sustulerit**                      **et utrum**                      **hāc an illāc**                      **iter īnstiterit.**  
who stole it                      or who carried it off                      or whether                      this way or that way                      he went.

**Nunc vestīgia hīc,**                      **sī qua sunt,**                      **nōscitābō.**  
Now                      clues                      here                      if there are any,                      I will recognize.

**nam sī nēmō hāc praeter iit,**                      **postquam intrō abī,**  
For                      if no one else has gone beyond this place                      after I went inside,  
**cistella hīc iacēret.**                      **quid hīc?**                      **perī,**                      **opīnor.**  
the little basket would be lying here.                      What is here?                      I am as good as dead, I am sure of it.

**āctum est,**                      **īlicet mē īnfēlicem et scelestam.**  
It has been done,                      all is lost, I am unlucky and wicked.  
**nūlla est,**                      **neque ego sum usquam.**                      **perdita perdidit mē.**  
There is nothing, and I am totally in limbo.                      What I have lost has destroyed me

**sed pergam ut coepī tamen,**                      **quaeritābō.**  
But I will press on as I began, nevertheless, I will keep looking for it.  
**nam et intus paveō**                      **et forīs formīdō,**  
For                      I both tremble on the inside-and-am afraid on the outside.                      ,

**ita nunc utrubique**                      **metus mē agitat.**  
so now                      on both sides                      fear shakes me.  
**sed mēmet moror,**                      **quom hoc agō**                      **sētius.**  
But I delay my own self                      because I am doing this                      too slowly.

**Halisca, hoc age,**                      **ad terram aspice et dēspice,**  
Halisca,                      do this,                      at the ground                      look out and down.  
**oculīs investigēs,**                      **astūtē augurā.**