



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CLASSICS PROJECT

Eduqas GCSE Latin  
Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *The Flood*

For examination in 2020 and 2021

**Student Study Booklet**



PUBLISHED BY THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CLASSICS PROJECT  
Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge,  
184 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PQ, UK

<http://www.CambridgeSCP.com>

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First published 2019

version date 27/09/2019

**This document uses the official examination text for the Eduqas Latin GCSE (2020-2021).**

**The passages in italics are summaries of events to support understanding of the narrative. They are not part of the prescription.**

## The Flood

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1.244-421 (selected)

*In his Metamorphoses, Ovid fitted together into a continuous poem of around 12,000 lines an enormous range of myths and folk-tales, beginning with the creation of the world and ending in Ovid's own day. Almost all the stories it contains (including this one) involve a change of shape (in Greek, a 'metamorphosis') of one sort or another - humans, for example, being transformed into animals, trees, and even mountains!*

*At the beginning of this story, Jupiter is in despair at the evil behaviour of mankind. He calls all the gods to a meeting, and announces that he has decided to destroy the entire human race.*

## Section A

Some approved Jupiter's words with their voices and spurred on his seething anger, others played their part with applause. Yet the loss of the human race was a grief to them all, and they asked what would be the shape of a world deprived of men, who was going to bring incense to their altars, and whether he was planning to hand over the lands to be ravaged by the wild beasts. When they asked about such things the king of the gods told them to have no fears (for he said everything else would be his concern), and he promised a race quite different from the previous population, from an amazing source.

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## Notes

## Section B

Now Jupiter was ready to scatter thunderbolts across the whole world, but he became afraid that by accident the sacred upper air might catch light from so many fiery weapons, and the wide vault of heaven might begin to burn. He also remembered that there was a prophecy in the laws of fate that there would come a time 5 when the sea, the earth and the royal palace of heaven would catch fire and burn and the magnificent body of the world would suffer. So the weapons forged by the hands of the Cyclops were laid aside: instead he chose a different punishment, to destroy the mortal race beneath the waves and to send down rain-clouds from 10 every part of the sky.

## Notes

## Section C

### Lines 1 – 4

protinus Aeoliis Aquilonem claudit in antris  
et quaecumque fugant inductas flamina nubes,  
emittitque Notum. madidis Notus evolat alis,  
terribilem picea tectus caligine vultum;

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 protinus - <i>straightaway</i><br/>Aeolius, Aeolia, Aeolium - <i>of Aeolus, the god of the winds</i><br/>Aquila, Aquilonis m - <i>the North wind</i><br/>claudio, claudere, clausi, clausus - <i>close, shut</i><br/>in + abl. - <i>in, on</i><br/>antrum, antri n - <i>cave</i></p> <p>2 et - <i>and</i><br/>quaecumque - <i>whichever</i><br/>fugo, fugare, fugavi, fugatus - <i>make flee, put to flight</i><br/>inductus, inducta, inductum - <i>gathered</i><br/>flamen, flaminis n - <i>gust of wind</i><br/>nubes, nubis f - <i>cloud</i></p> | <p>3 emitto, emittere, emisi, emissus - <i>send forth</i><br/>-que - <i>and</i><br/>Notus, Noti, m - <i>the South wind</i><br/>madidus, madida, madidum - <i>dripping, wet</i><br/>evolo, evolare, evolavi, evolatus - <i>fly out</i><br/>ala, alae f - <i>wing</i></p> <p>4 terribilis, terribilis, terribile - <i>dreadful, terrible</i><br/>piceus, picea, piceum - <i>pitch black</i><br/>tectus, tecta, tectum - <i>covered</i><br/>caligo, caliginis f - <i>darkness</i><br/>vultus, vultus m - <i>face</i></p> |
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## Notes

## Section C

### Lines 5 – 8

barba gravis nimbis, canis fluit unda capillis,  
fronte sedent nebulae, rorant pennaque sinusque.  
utque manu late pendentia nubila pressit,  
fit fragor; hinc densi funduntur ab aethere nimbi.

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| <p>5 barba, barbae f - <i>beard</i><br/>gravis, gravis, grave - <i>heavy</i><br/>nimbus, nimbi m - <i>rain-cloud</i><br/>canus, cana, canum - <i>snow white</i><br/>fluo, fluere, fluxi, fluctus - <i>flow</i><br/>unda, undae f - <i>wave</i><br/>capilli, capillorum m pl - <i>hair</i></p> <p>6 frons, frontis f - <i>brow, forehead</i><br/>sedeo, sedere, sedi, sessus - <i>sit</i><br/>nebula, nebulae f - <i>mist, vapour</i><br/>roro, rorare, roravi, roratus - <i>drip</i><br/><i>dew</i><br/>penna, pennaef - <i>wing</i><br/>-que - <i>and</i><br/>sinus, sinus m - <i>robes</i></p> | <p>7 utque - <i>when</i><br/>manus, manus f - <i>hand</i><br/>late - <i>widely</i><br/>pendens, gen. pendentis - <i>hanging</i><br/>nubila, nubilorum n pl - <i>clouds</i><br/>premo, premere, pressi, pressus -<br/><i>crush</i></p> <p>8 fio, fieri, factus sum - <i>happen</i><br/>fragor, fragoris m - <i>crash, crack</i><br/>hinc - <i>from here</i><br/>densi - <i>thick</i><br/>fundo, fundere, fusi, fusus - <i>pour</i><br/>ab + abl - <i>by, from</i><br/>aether, aetheris m - <i>air</i><br/>nimbus, nimbi m - <i>rain-storm</i></p> |
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## Notes

## Section C

### Lines 9 – 12

nuntia Iunonis varios induta colores

concipit Iris aquas alimenta<sup>que</sup> nubibus adfert;

sternuntur segetes et deplorata colonis

vota iacent, longique perit labor inritus anni.

10

- 9 nuntia, nuntiae f - *messenger*  
Iuno, Iunonis f - *Juno*  
varius, varia, varium - *various*  
indutus, induta, indutum -  
*dressed, clad*  
color, coloris m – *colours*
- 10 concipio, concipere, concepi,  
conceptus - *receive, adopt*  
(*here: gather up*)  
Iris, Iris f - *Iris*  
aqua aquae f - *water*  
alimentum, alimenti n - *food*  
-que - *and*  
nubes, nubis f - *cloud*  
adfero, adferre, adtuli, adlatus -  
*bring, report*

- 11 sterno, sternere, stravi, stratus -  
*spread out*  
seges, segetis f - *crops*  
et - *and*  
deploratus, deplorata,  
deploratum- *lamented, wept for*  
colonus, coloni m - *farmer*
- 12 votum, voti n - *hope, prayer*  
iaceo, iacere, iacui – *lie (e.g. on*  
*the ground)*  
longus, longa, longum - *long*  
pereo, perire, perii – *perish, pass*  
*away, come to nothing*  
labor, laboris m - *work, labour,*  
*toil*  
inritus, inrita, inritum - *wasted*  
annus, anni m - *year*

## Notes

## Section D

### Lines 1 – 4

nec caelo contenta suo est Iovis ira, sed illum  
caeruleus frater iuvat auxiliaribus undis.  
convocat hic amnes; qui postquam tecta tyranni  
intravere sui,

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 nec - <i>and not, nor</i><br/>caelum, caeli n - <i>sky, heaven</i><br/>contentus, contenta,<br/>contentum - <i>satisfied</i><br/>suus, sua, suum - <i>his, her, their own</i><br/>sum, esse, fui - <i>be</i><br/>Iuppiter, Iovis m - <i>Jupiter</i><br/>ira, irae f - <i>anger</i><br/>sed - <i>but</i><br/>ille, illa, illud – <i>that, he, she, it</i></p> <p>2 caeruleus, caerulea,<br/>caeruleum - <i>sea-blue</i><br/>frater, fratris m - <i>brother</i><br/>iuvo, iuvare, iuvi, iuvatus - <i>help</i><br/>auxiliaris, auxiliaris, auxiliare - <i>support, help</i></p> | <p>3 unda, undae f – <i>wave</i><br/>convoco, convocare,<br/>convocavi, convocatus - <i>summon, call together</i><br/>hic, haec, hoc – <i>this, he, she, it</i><br/>amnis, amnis m - <i>stream, river, torrent</i><br/>qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i><br/>postquam - <i>after</i><br/>tectum, tecti n - <i>house, roof</i><br/>tyrannus, tyranni m - <i>king, ruler</i></p> <p>4 intro, intrare, intravi, intratus - <i>enter</i><br/>suus, sua, suum - <i>his, her, their own</i></p> |
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## Notes

## Section D

### Lines 4– 7

'non est hortamine longo

nunc' ait 'utendum. vires effundite vestras

5

(sic opus est). aperite domos ac mole remota

fluminibus vestris totas immittite habenas.'

- 4 non - *not*  
sum, esse, fui - *be*  
hortamen, hortaminis n -  
*encouragement*  
longus, longa, longum - *long*
- 5 nunc - *now*  
ait - *said*  
utendum, utendi + abl - *must*  
*be employed, used*  
vis, vis (plural vires, virium) f  
- *strength, power*  
effundo, effundere, effudi,  
effusus - *pour forth*  
vester, vestra, vestrum -  
*your (plural)*

- 6 sic - *thus, in this way*  
opus, operis n - *task*  
aperio, aperire, aperui,  
apertus - *open*  
domus, domus f - *house,*  
*home*  
ac - *and*  
moles, molis f - *barrier*  
remotus, remota, remotum –  
*removed, driven off*
- 7 flumen, fluminis n - *river*  
totus, tota, totum - *complete*  
immitto, immittere, immisi,  
immissus - *give, discharge*  
habena, habenae f - *rein*

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## Notes

## Section D

### Lines 8 – 11

iusserat; hi redeunt ac fontibus ora relaxant

et defrenato volvuntur in aequora cursu.

ipse tridente suo terram percussit; at illa

10

intremuit motuque vias patefecit aquarum.

8 iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus -  
*order*

hic, haec, hoc – *this, he, she, it*  
redeo, redire, redii, reditus - *go*  
*back, turn back*

ac - *and*

fons, fontis m - *spring, source*

os, oris n - *mouth*

relaxo, relaxare, relaxavi,

relaxatus - *open wide*

9 et - *and*

defrenatus, defrenata,

defrenatum - *uncontrolled*

volvo, volvere, volvi, volutus - *roll,*  
*tumble*

in + abl - *in, on*

aequor, aequoris n – *sea, level*  
*surface*

cursus, cursus m – *course,*  
*channel*

10 ipse, ipsa, ipsum - *himself, herself,*  
*itself*

tridens, tridentis m - *trident*

suus, sua, suum - *his, her, their*  
*own*

terra, terrae f - *earth, land*

percutio, percutere, percussi,

percussus - *strike*

at - *but*

ille, illa, illud – *that, he, she, it*

11 intremo, intremere, intremui -  
*tremble, shake, quake*

motus, motus m - *movement*

-que - *and*

via, viae f - *channel*

patefacio, patefacere, patefeci,

patefactus - *open wide*

aqua aquae f - *water*



## Notes



## Notes



## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 1-4

iamque mare et tellus nullum discrimen habebant;

omnia pontus erat, deerant quoque litora ponto.

occupat hic collem, cumba sedet alter adunca

et ducit remos illic ubi nuper arabat;

- 1 iam - *now*  
-que - *and*  
mare, maris n - *sea*  
et - *and*  
tellus, telluris f - *land*  
nullus, nulla, nullum - *no, not any*  
discrimen, discriminis n - *difference*  
habeo, habere, habui, habitus - *have*
- 2 omnia - *everything*  
pontus, ponti m - *sea*  
sum, esse, fui - *be*  
desum, deesse defui + dat - *be absent from*  
quoque - *also*  
litus, litoris n - *shore*

- 3 occupo, occupare, occupavi,  
occupatus - *seize, take possession of, occupy*  
hic, haec, hoc – *this, he, she, it*  
collis, collis m - *high ground, hill*  
cumba, cumbae f - *small boat*  
sedeo, sedere, sedi, sessus - *sit*  
alter, altera, alterum - *other*  
aduncus, adunca, aduncum - *hooked, bent*
- 4 et - *and*  
duco, ducere, duxi, ductus – *ply (as with oars), move*  
remus, remi m - *oar*  
illic - *in that place, there*  
ubi - *where*  
nuper - *recently*  
aro, arare, aravi, aratus - *plough*

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## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 5-8

ille supra segetes aut mersae culmina villae

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navigat, hic summa piscem deprendit in ulmo;

figitur in viridi, si fors tulit, ancora prato,

aut subiecta terunt curvae vineta carinae;

5 ille, illa, illud – *that, he, she, it*  
supra - *above*  
seges, segetis f - *crops*  
aut - *or*  
mersus, mersa, mersum -  
*submerged*  
culmen, culminis n - *top, highest*  
*point*  
villa, villae f - *house*

6 navigo, navigare, navigavi,  
navigatus - *sail*  
hic, haec, hoc – *this, he, she, it*  
summus, summa, summum -  
*highest, top*  
piscis, piscis m - *fish*  
deprendo, deprendere, deprendi,  
deprensus - *catch, snatch away*  
in + abl - *in, on*  
ulmus, ulmi f - *elm tree*

7 figo, figere, fixi, fictus - *stick, fix,*  
*fasten*

viridis, viridis, viride - *green*  
si - *if*

fors, fortis f - *chance, luck*  
fero, ferre, tuli, latus - *bear,*  
*endure*

ancora, ancorae f - *anchor*  
pratium, prati n - *meadow*

8 aut - *or*  
subiectus, subiecta, subiectum -  
*lying beneath*

tero, terere, trivi, tritus - *brush*  
*past*

curvus, curva, curvum - *curved*  
vinetum, vineti n - *vineyard*  
carina, carinae f - *hull, boat*



## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 9-12

et, modo qua graciles gramen carpsere capellae,

nunc ibi deformes ponunt sua corpora phocae.

mirantur sub aqua lucos urbesque domosque

Nereides,

10

9 et - *and*  
modo - *just now, once*  
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*  
gracilis, gracilis, gracile - *lean*  
gramen, graminis n - *grass*  
carpo, carpere, carpsi, carptus -  
*pluck, graze*  
capella, capellae f - *goat*

10 nunc - *now*  
ibi - *there*  
deformis, deformis, deforme -  
*ugly*  
pono, ponere, posui, positus –  
*place*

suus, sua, suum – *his, here, their*  
*own*

corpus, corporis n - *body*  
phoca, phocae f - *seal*

11 miror, mirari, miratus sum -  
*admire, be surprised*  
sub + abl - *beneath*

aqua aquae f - *water*  
lucus, luci m - *grove, clearing*  
urbs, urbis f - *city*  
-que – *and*

domus, domus f - *house, home*

12 Nereides, Nereidum f pl -  
*Nereids, nymphs*

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## Notes



## Notes



## Notes

## Section E

### Lines 17-20

quaesitisque diu terris ubi sistere possit,

in mare lassatis volucris vaga decidit alis.

obruerat tumulos immensa licentia ponti

pulsabantque novi montana cacumina fluctus.

20

- 17 quaesitus, quaesita, quaesitum - *sought for, looked for*  
-que - *and*  
diu - *for a long time*  
terra, terrae f - *earth, land*  
ubi - *where*  
sisto, sistere, stiti - *stand*  
possum, posse, potui - *be able*
- 18 in + abl - *in, on*  
mare, maris n - *sea*  
lassatus, lassata, lassatum - *tired*  
volucris, volucris f - *bird*  
vagus, vaga, vagum - *wandering*  
decido, decidere, decidi - *fall*  
ala, alae f - *wing*

- 19 obruo, obruere, obrui, obrutus - *overwhelm*  
tumulus, tumuli m - *hill*  
immensus, immensa, immensum - *unlimited*  
licentia, licentiae f - *power*  
pontus, ponti m - *ocean, sea*
- 20 pulso, pulsare, pulsavi, pulsatus - *strike, beat*  
novus, nova, novum - *new*  
montanus, montana, montanum - *mountainous*  
cacumen, cacuminis n - *peak*  
fluctus, fluctus m - *wave*

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## Notes



## Notes



## Notes

## Section F

### Lines 4-7

mons ibi verticibus petit arduus astra duobus,

nomine Parnasus, superantque cacumina nubes.

5

his ubi Deucalion (nam cetera texerat aequor)

cum consorte tori parva rate vectus adhaesit,

4 mons, montis m - *mountain*  
ibi - *there*  
vertex, verticis m - *top, peak*  
peto, petere, petivi, petitus -  
*reaches*  
arduus, ardua, arduum - *steep*  
astrum, astri n - *star, heavens*  
duo, duae, duo - *two*

5 nomen, nominis n - *name*  
Parnasus, Parnasi m - *Mt Parnassus*  
supero, superare, superavi,  
superatus - *rise above*  
-que - *and*  
cacumen, cacuminis n - *peak*  
nubes, nubis f - *cloud*

6 hic, haec, hoc – *this, he, she, it*  
ubi - *when*  
Deucalion, Deucalionis m -  
*Deucalion, Pyrrha's husband*  
nam - *for*

ceteri, ceterae, cetera - *the others, the rest*  
tego, tegere, texi, tectus - *cover*  
aequor, aequoris n - *sea, level surface*

7 cum + abl – *with*  
consors, consortis m/f – *partner (in marriage)*  
torus, tori m - *bed*  
parvus, parva, parvum - *small*  
ratis, ratis f - *raft*  
vectus, vecta, vectum - *carried*  
adhaereo, adhaerere, adhaesi,  
adhaesus - *cling to (here: land on)*

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## Notes

## Section F

### Lines 8-11

Corycidas nymphas et numina montis adorant

fatidicamque Themis, quae tunc oracla tenebat.

non illo melior quisquam nec amantior aequi

vir fuit aut illa metuentior ulla deorum.

10

- 8 Corycides, Corycidum f. pl – *Corycian [nymphs]*  
nympha, nymphae f – *nymph, demi-goddess of the woods and rivers*  
et – *and*  
numen, numinis n – *spirit, god, deity*  
mons, montis m – *mountain*  
adoro, adorare, adoravi, adoratus – *speak to, worship*
- 9 fatidicus, fatidica, fatidicum – *prophetic*  
-que – *and*  
Themis, Themidis f – *Themis, goddess of prophecy and justice*  
qui, quae, quod – *who, which*  
tunc – *then*  
oraculum, oraculi n (oracla = contraction) – *oracle*

- teneo, tenere, tenui, tentus – *keep charge of,*
- 10 non – *not*  
ille, illa, illud – *that, he, she, it*  
melior, melior, melius – *better*  
quisquam, quidquam – *anyone, anything*  
nec – *and not, nor*  
amans, gen. amantis – *loving, fond*  
aequus, aequa, aequum – *right, even, level, flat*
- 11 vir, viri m – *man*  
sum, esse, fui – *be*  
aut – *or*  
metuens, gen. metuentis – *fearful*  
ullus, ulla, ullum – *any*  
deus, dei m – *god*



## Notes



## Notes



## Notes

## Section G

### Lines 7-9

[Lines 330-342 of the text are omitted.]

iam mare litus habet, plenos capit alveus amnes,

flumina subsidunt collesque exire videntur,

surgit humus, crescunt loca decrescentibus undis;

- 7 iam - *now*  
mare, maris n - *sea*  
litus, litoris n - *coast, shore*  
habeo, habere, habui, habitus -  
*have*  
plenus, plena, plenum - *full*  
capio, capere, cepi, captus - *take*  
alveus, alvei m - *river-bed*  
amnis, amnis m - *stream, river,*  
*torrent*

- 8 flumen, fluminis n - *river*  
subsido, subsidere, subsedi,  
subsessus - *subside*

- collis, collis m - *high ground, hill*  
-que - *and*  
exeo, exire, exii, exitus - *emerge*  
video, videre, vidi, visus - *see*  
9 surgo, surgere, surrexi, surrectus  
- *rise up, get up*  
humus, humi f - *ground*  
cresco, crescere, crevi, cretus -  
*increase, grow bigger*  
locus, loci m in sing (m or n in  
plural) - *place*  
decrescens, gen decrescentis -  
*decreasing*  
unda, undae f - *wave*

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## Notes





## Notes



## Notes



## Notes

## Section H

### Lines 7-10

terrarum, quascumque vident occasus et ortus,

nos duo turba sumus; possedit cetera pontus.

haec quoque adhuc vitae non est fiducia nostrae

certa satis; terrent etiamnum nubila mentem.

10

7 terra, terrae f - *earth, land*  
quicumque, quaecumque,  
quodcumque - *whoever,*  
*whatever*  
video, videre, vidi, visus - *see*  
occasus, occasus m - *setting (of*  
*the sun)*  
et - *and*  
ortus, ortus m - *rising (of the*  
*sun)*

8 nos - *we, us*  
duo, duae, duo - *two*  
turba, turbae f - *population,*  
*crowd*  
sum, esse, fui - *be*  
possideo, possidere, possedi,  
possessus - *claim, own, possess*

ceteri, ceterae, cetera - *the*  
*others, the rest*  
pontus, ponti m - *sea*  
9 hic, haec, hoc - *this, he, she, it*  
quoque - *also*  
adhuc - *up till now, still*  
vita, vitae f - *life*  
non - *not*  
fiducia, fiduciae f - *trust*  
noster, nostrae, nostrum - *our*  
10 certus, certa, certum - *sure,*  
*assured, certain*  
satis - *enough*  
terreo, terrere, terrui, territus -  
*terrify*  
etiamnum - *even now*  
nubila, nubilorum n pl - *clouds*  
mens, mentis f - *mind*

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## Notes

## Section H

### Lines 11-13

quis tibi, si sine me fatis erepta fuisses,

nunc animus, miseranda, foret? quo sola timorem

ferre modo posses? quo consolante doleres?

11 quis, quis, quid - *who, what?*  
tibi - dative of tu, *you s*  
si - *if*  
sine + abl – *without*  
me - *accusative of ego, I*  
fatum, fati n - *fate*  
ereptus, erepta, eraptum –  
*rescued, snatched away*  
sum, esse, fui - *be*

12 nunc - *now*  
animus, animi m – *feeling, state of mind*  
miserandus, miseranda,  
miserandum - *lamentable, pitiable, poor*

foret (*impf subj = esset*): sum,  
esse, fui - *be*  
solus, sola, solum - *alone*  
timor, timoris m - *fear, alarm*

13 fero, ferre, tuli, latus - *bear, endure*  
modus, modi m. – *manner, way*  
(*here: quo ... modo = how?*)  
possum posse potui – *be able*  
consolans gen. consolantis -  
*consoling*  
doleo, dolere, dolui, dolitus - *feel pain, suffer*



## Notes

## Section H

### Lines 14-17

namque ego (crede mihi) si te quoque pontus haberet,

te sequerer, coniunx, et me quoque pontus haberet.

15

o utinam possim populos reparare paternis

artibus atque animas formatae infundere terrae!

14 namque - *for in fact*  
ego, mei - *I*  
credo, credere, credidi, creditus +  
dat. - *believe, trust*  
si - *if*

15 tu, tui - *you*  
quoque - *also*  
pontus, ponti m – *sea, ocean*  
habeo, habere, habui, habitus -  
*have*  
sequor, sequi, secutus sum -  
*follow*  
coniunx, coniugis f - *wife*  
et – *and*  
me – acc. ego *I*

16 o - *o!, oh!*  
utinam - *if only*  
possum, posse, potui - *be able*  
populus, populi m - *people*  
reparo, reparare, reparavi,  
reparatus - *restore*

paternus, paterna, paternum -  
*fatherly, paternal*

17 ars artis, f - *skill*  
atque - *and*  
anima, animae f - *soul*  
formatus, formata, formatum -  
*moulded, formed*  
infundo, infundere, infudi, infusus,  
- *pour in*  
terra, terrae f - *earth, land*

## Notes



## Notes

## Section I

So he spoke, and they wept. They decided to pray to the power of heaven and to seek help through sacred oracles. Without further delay they together approached the waters of the Cephisus, which, though not yet clear, at least now followed their usual channels. When they had sprinkled water taken from there on their clothes and heads, they turned their footsteps towards the shrine of the holy goddess, the roof of which was yellow with foul moss and whose altars stood without fires. As they touched the temple steps, each of them fell flat on the ground and, shaking with fear, gave kisses to the cold stone, and they spoke thus: 'If the heavenly powers are won over and softened by just prayers, if the anger of the gods can be averted, tell us, Themis, by what means the loss of our race is capable of being repaired, and bring help, o gentlest one, to the drowned world.'

## Notes

## Section J

The goddess was moved and gave this oracle: 'Depart from this temple, veil your heads, undo your tight clothes and throw the bones of your great mother behind your backs.' For a long time they were struck dumb, till Pyrrha first broke the silence with her voice; she refused to obey the goddess's commands, and in a fearful voice begged her to grant pardon, 5 as she was afraid of hurting her mother's ghost by throwing her bones. Meanwhile they kept going over in their minds and discussing between them the obscure words and hidden meaning of the oracle they had been given. Then Prometheus' son tried to reassure Epimetheus' daughter with soothing words, and said 'Either my skill deceives me, or oracles are holy 10 and urge nothing sinful. Our great mother is the earth: I think the stones on the body of the earth are what is meant by her bones; these are what we are commanded to throw behind our backs.'

## Notes

## Section K

Though the Titan's daughter was impressed by her husband's interpretation, her hope was still uncertain; both of them found it hard to believe the heavenly advice. But what harm would it do to give it a try? So they came out of the temple, veiled their heads, untied their tunics and threw the stones, as ordered, behind their feet. The rocks – who would ever believe this without the evidence of history? – began to lose their hardness and solidity, then to soften and, once softened, to take on shape. Soon, when they had grown and a gentler nature came upon them, a kind of human form could be seen, not yet obvious but as if just begun in marble, not really finished and very like a roughed-out statue. Those parts of them that were earthy and damp with moisture became flesh; what was solid and could not be bent was turned into bones; what was already a vein remained so, and with the same name; in a brief space of time, through the power of the gods, those rocks hurled by the man's hands took on the likeness of men, and woman was restored from those thrown by the woman. For that reason we are a hard race, accustomed to toil, and so give proof of the source from which we were born.

## Notes