



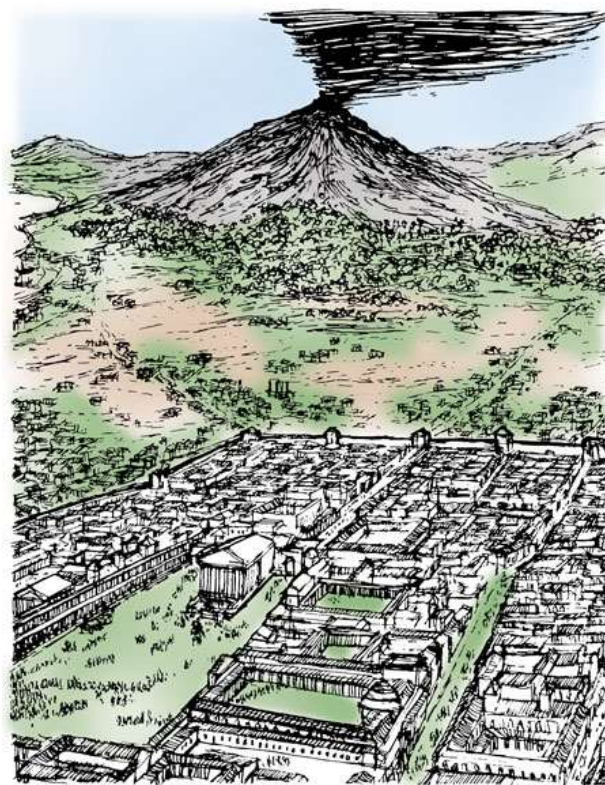
UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CLASSICS PROJECT

Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives)
Pliny, The Eruption of Vesuvius

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: 14/08/2019

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

The Eruption of Vesuvius

Pliny the Younger, *Letters* VI.16

On 24th August AD 79 Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus (Pliny the Younger) was staying with his uncle and his mother at a villa on Cape Misenum, in southern Italy. His uncle, known to us as Pliny the Elder, was in charge of the Roman fleet stationed at Misenum. He was also a notable scientist, whose Natural History can still be read today.

Many years later, the historian Tacitus asked the younger Pliny to write an account of the eruption of Vesuvius, in which his uncle died.

Section A

Lines 1 - 3

petis ut tibi avunculi mei exitum scribam, quo verius tradere posteris possis. gratias ago; nam video morti eius si celebretur a te immortalem gloriam esse propositam.

1 peto, petere, petivi, petitus - *ask, seek*
ut - *that, so that*
tu, tui - *you (singular)*
avunculus, avunculi m. - *uncle*
meus, mea, meum - *my*
exitus, exitus - *death*
scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus - *write*
quo - *so that, in order that*
vere - *truly, truthfully, accurately*
(comparative *verius*)
trado, tradere, tradidi, traditus - *hand down*
posteris, posterorum m. pl. - *future generations, posterity*

2 possum, posse, potui - *can, be able*
gratias ago - *thank, be grateful*
nam - *for*
video, videre, vidi, visus - *see*
mors, mortis f - *death*
is, ea, id - *he, she, it*
si - *if*
celebro, celebrare, celebravi, celebratus - *celebrate, make known (here: record)*
a/ab + abl - *by, from*
immortalis, immortale - *immortal*
3 gloria, gloriae f. - *glory*
sum, esse, fui - *be*
propono, proponere, proposui, propositus - *intend, promise (here: guarantee)*

Notes

Section B

Lines 1 - 3

erat Miseni classemque imperio praesens regebat. nonum kal.
Septembres hora fere septima mater mea indicat ei adparere nubem
inusitata et magnitudine et specie.

- 1 sum, esse, fui - *be*
Misenum, Miseni n. - *Misenum, a town on the promontory forming the northern end of the Bay of Naples*
classis, classis f. - *fleet*
imperium, imperii n. - *power*
praesens, gen. praesentis - *present, in person*
rego, regere, rexi, rectus - *command, control, rule*
nonus, nona, nonum - *ninth*
kalendae, kalendarum - *Kalends, 1st day of each month*
- 2 September, Septembris, Septembre - *of September*
hora, horae - *hour*

- fere - *around, about, almost*
septimus, septima, septimum - *seventh*
mater, matris f. - *mother*
meus, mea, meum - *my*
indico, indicare, indicavi, indicatus - *point out*
is, ea, id - *he, she, it*
adpareo adparere adparui - *become visible, appear*
nubes, nubis f. - *cloud*
- 3 inusitatus, inusitata, inustitatum - *unusual*
et ... et both ... and
magnitudo, magnitudinis f. - *size*
species, speciei f - *appearance*

Notes

Section B

Lines 3 - 5

usus ille sole, mox frigida, gustaverat
iacens studebatque; poscit soleas, ascendit locum ex quo maxime
miraculum illud conspici poterat.

5

- 3 utor, uti, usus sum + abl. - *use*
(*here with sol: sunbathe*)
ille, illa, illud - *that, he, she*
sol, solis m. - *sun*
mox - *soon*
frigidus, frigida, frigidum - *cold*
(*here: water, bath*)
gusto, gustare, gustavi - *eat a little, taste*
- 4 iacens, gen. iacentis - *lying down*
studio, studere, studui + dat - *study*
posco, poscere, poposci - *ask for, demand*
solea, soleae f. - *sandal*

- ascendo ascendere ascendi - *climb, rise*
locus, loci m - *place*
e, ex + abl - *from, out of*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
maxime - *very greatly, most greatly (here:best)*
- 5 miraculum, miraculi n. - *phenomenon, wonder, strange thing*
ille, illa, illud - *that, he, she*
conspicio, conspicerere, conspexi
conspectus - *see, catch sight of, notice*
possum, posse, potui - *can, be able*

Notes

Section B

Lines 5 - 7

nubes - incertum procul intuentibus ex
quo monte (Vesuvium fuisse postea cognitum est) - oriebatur, cuius
similitudinem et formam non alia magis arbor quam pinus expresserit.

5

5 nubes, nubis f. - *cloud*
incertus, incerta, incertum -
uncertain
procul - *at a distance, far off*
intuens, gen. intuentis - *viewing,*
looking at

e, ex + abl - *from, out of*
6 qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
mons, montis m - *mountain*
Vesuvius, Vesuvii m - *Mount*
Vesuvius
sum, esse, fui - *be*
postea - *afterwards*
cognitus, cognita, cognitum -
known, found out

orior, oriri, ortus sum - *rise up*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*

7 similitudo, similitudinis f. -
likeness, resemblance
et - *and*

forma, formae f - *shape,*
appearance

non - *not*

alius, alia, aliud - *other*

magis - *more, more greatly*

arbor arboris f. - *tree*

quam - *than*

pinus, pinus/pini m. - *pine (tree)*

exprimo, exprimere, expressi,

expressus - *model, imitate*

Notes

Section B

Lines 8 - 10

nam longissimo velut trunco elata in altum quibusdam ramis
diffundebatur, credo quia recenti spiritu evecta, dein senescente eo
destitute aut etiam pondere suo victa in latitudinem vanescebat, ...

10

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>8 nam - <i>for</i>
longus, longa, longum - <i>long</i>
velut - <i>as if, just as, like as if</i>
truncus, trunci m. - <i>trunk (of a tree)</i>
elatus, elata, elatum - <i>raised up, elevated</i>
altus, alta, altum - <i>high</i>
in + abl. - <i>in, on</i>
quidam, quaedam, quoddam - <i>one, a certain</i>
ramus, rami m - <i>branch</i></p> <p>9 diffundo, diffundere, diffusi, diffusus - <i>spread out</i>
credo, credere, credidi, creditus + dat - <i>believe, trust</i>
quia - <i>because</i>
recens, gen.recentis - <i>recent, (here: fresh)</i>
spiritus, spiritus m. - <i>breath, breeze (here: blast of air)</i></p> | <p>evectus, evecta, evectum - <i>carried out, conveyed</i>
dein/deinde - <i>then</i>
senescens, gen. senescentis - <i>growing old (here: dying away)</i>
is, ea, id - <i>he, she, it</i></p> <p>10 destitutus, destituta, destitutum - <i>abandoned, left alone (here: unsupported)</i>
aut - <i>or</i>
etiam - <i>even</i>
pondus, ponderis n. - <i>weight</i>
suus, sua, suum - <i>his, her, their own</i>
victus, victa, victum - <i>overcome, defeated</i>
in + acc. - <i>into, onto</i>
latitudo, latitudinis f - <i>width, breadth</i>
vanesco, vanescere, - <i>vanish, drift away</i></p> |
|--|--|

Notes

Section B

Lines 10 - 12

..... candida 10
interdum, interdum sordida et maculosa prout terram cineremve
sustulerat.

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 10 | candidus candida candidum -
<i>white, bright</i> | prout - <i>depending on</i>
terra, terrae f. - <i>earth, ground,</i>
<i>land</i> |
| 11 | interdum - <i>sometimes, now</i>
<i>and then</i>
sordidus, sordida, sordidum -
<i>dirty</i>
et - <i>and</i>
maculosus, maculosa,
maculosum - <i>stained</i> | cinis, cineris m - <i>ash</i>
-ve - <i>or</i>
12 suffero, sufferre, sustuli, sublatus
- <i>carry up, hold up, bear</i> |

Notes

Section C

Lines 1 - 3

magnum propiusque noscendum ut eruditissimo viro visum. lubet liburnicam aptari; mihi si venire una vellem facit copiam; respondi studere me malle, et forte ipse quod scriberem dederat.

- 1 magnus, magna, magnum - *big, great, important*
propior, propius - *nearer*
nosco, noscere - *investigate, get to know*
ut - *as*
eruditus, erudita, eruditum - *educated, scholarly*
vir, viri m. - *man*
videor, videri, visus sum - *seem*
iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus - *order*
- 2 liburnica, liburnicae f. - *a fast, light boat*
apto aptare aptavi aptatus - *prepare, get ready*
ego, mei - *I, me*
si - *if*

- venio, venire, veni, ventus- *come*
una - *together, along with, as well*
volo, velle, volui - *want*
facio, facere, feci, factus - *make, do*
copia copiae f. - *opportunity, supply*
respondeo, respondere, respondi, responsus - *reply*
studeo, studere, studui + dat. - *study*
- 3 ego, mei - *I, me*
malo, malle, malui - *prefer*
et - *and*
forte - *by chance, as it happened*
ipse, ipsa, ipsum - *himself, herself, itself*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus - *write*
do, dare, dedi, datus - *give*

Notes

Section C

Lines 3 - 6

egrediebatur domo;

accipit codicillos Rectinae Tasci imminenti periculo exterritae (nam villa eius subiacebat, nec ulla nisi navibus fuga): ut se tanto discrimini eriperet 5 orabat.

- 3 egredior, egredi, egressus sum - *leave, go out*
domus, domus f. - *home, house*
(domo = *from home*)
- 4 accipio, accipere, accepi, acceptus - *receive*
codicilli, codicillorum m. - *short note, message written on parchment*
Rectina, Rectinae - *Rectina*
Tascus, Tasci m. - *Tascus*
imminens, gen. imminens + dat. - *threatening, hanging over*
periculum, periculi n. - *danger*
exterritus, exterrita, exterritum - *terrified*
nam - *for*

- 5 villa, villae - *house, villa*
is, ea, id - *he, she, it*
subiaceo, subiacere, subiacui - *lie beneath, lie at the foot of*
nec - *and not, nor*
ullus, ulla, ullum - *any*
nisi - *except, unless*
navis, navis - *ship*
fuga, fugae f. - *escape, flight*
ut - *that*
se - *himself, herself, themselves*
tantus, tanta, tantum - *such great, so great*
discrimen, discriminis n. - *peril, danger*
eripio, eripere, eripui, ereptus + dat. - *snatch away, rescue (from)*
- 6 oro, orare, oravi, oratus - *beg*

Notes

Section C

Lines 6 - 8

vertit ille consilium et quod studioso animo incohaverat obit
maximo. deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse non Rectinae modo sed
multis (erat enim frequens amoenitas orae) laturus auxilium.

- 6 verito, vertere, verti, versus - *change*
ille, illa, illud - *that, he, she*
consilium, consilii n. - *plan, idea*
et - *and*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which, what*
studiosus, studiosa, studiosum +
gen. - *inquiring, investigating*
animus, animi m. - *spirit, mind*
inchoo, incohare, incohavi,
incohatus - *begin*
obeo, obire, obii - *accomplish*
7 maximus, maxima, maximum - *very great*
deduco, deducere, deduxi,
deductus - *launch, lead out*
quadriremis, quadriremis f. -
warship

- ascendo, ascendere, ascendi,
ascensus - *board, embark*
ipse, ipsa, ipsum - *himself, herself, itself*
non - *not*
Rectina, Rectinae - *Rectina*
modo - *only*
sed - *but*
8 multi, multae, multa - *many*
sum, esse, fui - *be*
enim - *for*
frequens, gen. frequentis -
populous, densely populated
(here: *popular with people*)
amoenitas, amoenitatis f. -
loveliness, attractiveness
ora, orae f. - *coast*
laturus, latura, laturum -
intending to *bring, about to bring*
auxilium auxilii n - *help*

Notes

Section C

Lines 8 - 11

properat illuc
unde alii fugiunt, rectumque cursum recta gubernacula in periculum tenet
adeo solutus metu, ut omnes illius mali motus omnes figuras ut 10
deprenderat oculis dictaret enotaretque.

- 8 propero, properare, properavi,
properatus - *hurry, hasten*
illuc - there, *to that place/area*
- 9 unde - *from where*
alius, alia, aliud - *other*
fugio, fugere, fugi - *run away, flee (from)*
rectus, recta, rectum - *straight*
cursus, cursus m. - *course*
rectus, recta, rectum - *straight*
gubernaculum, gubernaculi n. - *rudder*
in - *into*
periculum, periculi n. - *danger*
teneo, tenere, tenui, tentus - *hold, keep (here: steer)*
- 10 adeo - *so much, so*
solutus, soluta, solutum - *freed, loosened*

- metus, metus m. - *fear*
ut - *that*
omnis, omne - *all, every*
ille, illa, illud - *that, he, she*
malum, mali n. - *dreadful thing, disaster*
motus, motus m. - *movement*
omnis, omne - *all, every*
figura, figurae f. - *feature, figure, shape*
ut - *as*
- 11 deprendo, deprendere, deprendi,
depremsus - *observe*
oculus, oculi m. - *eye*
dicto, dictare, dictavi, dictatus - *dictate (notes)*
enoto, enotare, enotavi, enotatus - *note down (here: scribble down)*
-que - *and*

Notes

Section D

Lines 1 - 3

iam navibus cinis incidebat, quo propius accederent, calidior et densior;
iam pumices etiam nigrique et ambusti et fracti igne lapides; iam vadum
subitum ruinaque montis litora obstantia.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 iam - <i>now</i>
navis, navis f. - <i>ship</i>
cinis, cineris m. - <i>ash</i>
incido, incidere, incidi - <i>fall (on)</i>
quo - <i>where, at which place</i>
propior, propius - <i>nearer</i>
accedo, accedere, accessi,
accessus - <i>approach, come near to</i>
calidus, calida, calidum - <i>warm, hot</i>
et - <i>and</i>
densus, densa, densum - <i>thick</i></p> <p>2 pumex, pumicis m. - <i>pumice</i>
etiam - <i>even, also</i></p> | <p>niger, nigra, nigrum - <i>black, dark</i>
et - <i>and</i>
ambustus, ambusta, ambustum - <i>scorched</i>
et - <i>and</i>
fractus, fracta, fractum - <i>broken (here: cracked)</i>
ignis, ignis m. - <i>fire</i>
lapis, lapidis m. - <i>stone</i>
vadum, vadi n. - <i>shallow water</i></p> <p>3 subitus, subita, subitum - <i>sudden</i>
ruina, ruinae f. - <i>ruin, debris</i>
mons, montis m. - <i>mountain</i>
litus, litoris f. - <i>sea-shore, shore</i>
obstans, gen. obstantis
+ dat. - <i>obstructing, blocking the way</i></p> |
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Notes

Section D

Lines 3 - 5

cunctatus paulum an retro
flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti 'fortes' inquit 'fortuna
iuvat: Pomponianum pete.'

5

- 3 cunctatus, cunctata, cunctatum - *having hesitated*
paulum - *a little (here: for a short time)*
an - *whether*
retro - *back*
- 4 flecto, flectere, flexi, flexus - *turn around, bend, change*
mox - *soon*
gubernator, gubernatoris m. - *helmsman*
ut - *that*

- ita - *in this way, so*
facio, facere, feci, factus - *do*
monens, gen. monentis - *advising, warning*
fortis, forte - *fearless, brave*
inquit - *he says*
fortuna, fortunae f. - *fortune*
- 5 iuvo, iuvare, iuvi, iutus - *help, assist (here: favour)*
Pomponianus, Pomponiani m. - *Pomponianus*
peto, petere, petivi, petitus - *make for, seek*

Notes

Lines 5 - 6

sensim circumactis curvatisque litoribus mare infunditur);

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- This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Notes

Section D

Lines 6 - 9

ibi quamquam 5

nondum periculo appropinquante, conspicuo tamen et cum cresceret
proximo, sarcinas contulerat in naves, certus fugae si contrarius ventus
resedisset.

- 6 ibi - *there*
quamquam - *although*
- 7 nondum - *not yet*
periculum, periculi n. - *danger*
appropinquans, gen. - *approaching*
conspicuum, conspicua, - *visible, in view*
tamen - *however*
et - *and*
cum + subjunctive - *when, since, although*
cresco, crescere, crevi, cretus - *grow*

- 8 proximus, proxima, proximum - *very close*
sarcinae, sarcinarum f.pl. - *luggage*
confero, conferre, contuli, collatus - *load, carry*
in +acc - *into, onto*
navis, navis f. - *ship*
certus, certa, certum + gen. - *determined to, certain of, resolved on*
fuga, fugae f. - *flight, escape*
si - *if*
contrarius, contraria, contrarium - *adverse, opposing, contrary*
ventus, venti m. - *wind*
- 9 resido, residere, resedi - *subside*

Notes

Section E

Lines 1 - 3

quo tunc avunculus meus secundissimo invectus, complectitur
trepidantem consolatur hortatur, utque timorem eius sua securitate leniret,
deferri in balineum iubet;

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 quo - <i>to that place (i.e. Stabiae), there</i>
tunc - <i>then, at that moment</i>
avunculus, avunculi m. - <i>uncle</i>
meus, mea, meum - <i>my, mine</i>
secundissimus, secundissima, secundissimum - <i>very favourable (wind)</i>
invectus, invecta, invectum - <i>carried in</i>
complector, complecti, complexus sum - <i>embrace</i></p> <p>2 trepidans, gen. trepidantis - <i>trembling (man)</i>
consolor, consolari, consolatus sum - <i>console, comfort</i></p> | <p>hortor, hortari, hortatus sum - <i>encourage, urge</i>
ut - <i>so that</i>
-que - <i>and</i>
timor, timoris m. - <i>fear</i>
is, ea, id - <i>he, she, it</i>
suus, sua, suum - <i>his, her, their own</i>
securitas, securitatis f. - <i>composure</i>
lenio, lenire, lenivi, lenitus - <i>calm</i></p> <p>3 defero, deferre, detuli, delatus - <i>take, bring away</i>
in + acc - <i>into</i>
balineum, balinei n. - <i>the baths</i>
iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus - <i>order</i></p> |
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Notes

Section E

Lines 3 - 4

lotus accubat cenat, aut hilaris aut (quod aeque magnum) similis hilari.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>3 lotus, lota, lotum - <i>having bathed</i>
 accubo, accubare - <i>recline (at table)</i>
 ceno, cenare, cenavi, cenatus - <i>take a meal, dine</i>
 aut ... aut ... - <i>either ... or ...</i>
 hilaris, hilare - <i>cheerful</i>
 qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
 aequē - <i>equally</i></p> | <p>4 magnus, magna, magnum - <i>great, noble (here: brave)</i>
 similis, simile + dat. - <i>resembling, appearing</i>
 hilaris, hilare - <i>cheerful</i></p> |
|--|--|

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Notes

Section E

Lines 4 - 6

interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus locis latissimae
flammae altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebris 5
noctis excitabatur.

- 4 interim - *meanwhile*
e, ex + abl - *from, out of*
Vesuvius, Vesuvii m. - *Mount Vesuvius*
mons, montis m. - *mountain*
plus, gen. pluris - *more*
locus, loci m. - *places*
latus, lata, latum - *extensive, wide*
- 5 flamma, flammae f. - *flame*
altus, alta, altum - *high, deep*
incendium, incendii n. - *fire, blaze*

- reluceo, relucere, reluxi - *blaze, shine out*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
fulgor, fulgoris m. - *glare*
et - *and, also, even*
claritas, claritatis f. - *brightness*
tenebrae, tenebrarum f. pl. - *darkness*
- 6 nox, noctis f. - *night*
excito, excitare, excitavi, excitatus
– rouse (here: *emphasise*)

Notes

Section E

Lines 6 - 7

ille agrestium trepidatione ignes relictos desertasque
villas per solitudinem ardere in remedium formidinis dictitabat.

6 ille, illa, illud - *he, she, it*
agrestis, agrestis m. -
countryman, peasant (here:
farmer)
trepidatio, trepidationis f - *alarm,*
panic
ignis, ignis m. - *fire*
relictus, relictus, relictum - *left*
behind
desertus, deserta, desertum -
deserted

7 villa, villae f.- *house, villa*
per + acc. - *throughout, through*
solitudo, solitudinis f. - *abandoned*
area, wilderness
ardeo, ardere, arsi, arsus - *burn,*
be on fire
in + acc - *into, towards (here: as)*
remedium, remedii n - *cure*
formido, formidinis f. - *fear, terror*
dictito dictitare dictitavi dictitatus -
keep saying

Notes

Section E

Lines 7 - 10

tum se
 quieti dedit et quievit verissimo quidem somno; nam meatus animae, qui
 illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab iis qui limini
 obversabantur audiebatur.

10

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7 tum - <i>then</i>
 se - <i>himself</i></p> <p>8 quies, quietis f. - <i>rest (here: peace and quiet)</i>
 do, dare, dedi, datus - <i>give</i>
 et - <i>and</i>
 quiesco, quiescere, quievi,
 quietus- <i>rest, relax</i>
 verus, vera, verum - <i>true, real (here: very deep)</i>
 quidem - <i>indeed, certainly</i>
 somnus, somni m. - <i>sleep</i>
 nam - <i>for</i>
 meatus, meatus m. - <i>motion, passage</i>
 anima, animae f - <i>breath (here: meatus animae = breathing)</i></p> | <p>9 qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
 ille, illa, illud - <i>he, she, it</i>
 propter - <i>because of</i>
 amplitudo, amplitudinis f - <i>stoutness, size</i>
 corpus, corporis n - <i>body</i>
 gravis, grave - <i>heavy</i>
 et - <i>and</i>
 sonans, gen. sonantis - <i>noisy</i>
 sum, esse, fui - <i>be</i>
 ab + abl. - <i>by</i>
 is, ea, id - <i>he, she, it; that</i>
 qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
 limen, liminis n - <i>doorway, threshold</i></p> <p>10 obversor, obversari, obversatus
 sum + dat. - <i>move about near</i>
 audio, audire, audivi, auditus - <i>hear</i></p> |
|---|--|

Notes

Section F

Lines 1 - 4

sed area ex qua diaeta adibatur ita iam cinere mixtisque pumicibus
oppleta surrexerat, ut si longior in cubiculo mora, exitus negaretur.
excitatus procedit, seque Pomponiano ceterisque qui pervigilaverant
reddit.

- 1 sed - *but*
area, areae f - *courtyard*
ex +abl. - *from, out of*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
diaeta, diaetae f. - *room*
adeo, adire, adii - *reach, go to*
ita - *so, in such a way*
iam - *now*
cinis, cineris m. - *ash*
mixtus, mixta, mixtum - *mixed*
pumex, pumicis m. - *pumice*
- 2 oppletus, oppleta, oppletum - *filled*
surgo, surgere, surrexi, surrectus - *get up*
ut - *that*
si - *if*
longus, longa, longum - *long*
in + abl. - *in*
cubiculum, cubiculi n. - *bedroom*
mora, morae f. - *delay*

- exitus, exitus m. - *way out, escape*
nego, negare, negavi, negatus - *deny, make impossible*
- 3 excitatus, excitata, excitatum - *roused, woken up*
procedo, procedere, processi - *go forth, advance, proceed*
se - *himself, herself, themselves*
-que - *and*
Pomponianus, Pomponiani m. - *Pomponianus*
ceteri, ceterae, cetera - *the others, the rest*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
pervigilo, pervigilare, pervigilavi
pervigilatus - *stay awake (all night)*
- 4 reddo, reddere, reddidi, redditus - *return, give back*

Notes

Section F

Lines 4 - 6

in commune consultant, intra tecta subsistant an in aperto
vagentur. nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta nutabant, et quasi 5
emota sedibus suis nunc huc nunc illuc abire aut referri videbantur.

- 4 in + abl. - *in*
 communis, commune - *shared, joint* (in commune = *together*)
 consulo, consulere, consului, consultus + dat. - *debate, consult*
 intra + acc. - *inside, within*
 tectum, tecti - *building (literally roof)*
 subsisto, sibsistere, substiti - *stay, make a stand*
 an - *or*
 apertus, aperta, apertum - *open* (in aperto = *in the open*)
- 5 vagor, vagari, vagatus sum - *roam around, wander*
 nam - *for*
 creber, crebra, crebrum - *frequent*
 vastus, vasta, vastum - *huge*
 -que - *and*

- tremor, tremoris m. - *tremor*
 nuto, nutare, nutavi, nutatus - *shake*
 et - *and, also, even*
 quasi - *as if*
- 6 emotus, emota, emotum - *detached, torn away*
 sedes, sedis f. - *foundation*
 suus, sua, suum - *his, her, their own*
 nunc - *now*
 huc - *this way*
 nunc - *now*
 illuc - *that way*
 abeo, abire - *go away*
 aut - *or*
 refero, referre, rettuli, relatus - *bring back*
 video, videre, vidi, visus - *see* (here: passive: *seem, be seen*)

Notes

Section F

Lines 6 - 9

sub

dio rursus quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum casus metuebatur,
quod tamen periculorum collatio elegit; et apud illum quidem ratio
rationem, apud alios timorem timor vicit.

6 sub + abl. - *under, beneath*

7 dium, dii n. - *sky*

(sub dio = *in the open air*)

rursus - *on the other hand, again*

quamquam - *though, although*

levis, leve - *light*

exesus, exesa, exesum - *porous*

-que - *and*

pumex, pumicis m. - *pumice*

casus, casus m. - *fall, falling*

metuo, metuere, metui - *fear, be afraid*

8 qui, quae, quod - *who, which*

tamen - *however*

periculum, periculi n. - *danger*

collatio, collationis f. - *comparison*

eligo, eligere, elegi, electus -
choose

et - *and*

apud + acc. - *in the case of, near,
at the house of*

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

quidem - *indeed*

9 ratio, rationis f. - *reason, rational
argument, calculation*

alius, alia, aliud - *other*

timor, timoris m. - *fear*

vinco, vincere, vici, victus -
overcome, defeat, win

Notes

Section F

Lines 9 - 10

cervicalia capitibus imposita

linteis constringunt; id munimentum adversus incidentia fuit.

10

9 cervical, cervicalis n. - *pillow*
caput, capitis n. - *head*
impositus, imposita, impositum -
placed on, put upon, imposed

10 linteum, lintei n. - *linen cloth, sheet*
constringo, constringere,
constrinxi, constrictus - *tie down, bind*

is, ea, id - *he, she, it*
munimentum, munimenti n. -
protection, fortification
adversus + acc. - *against*
incidens, gen. incidentis - *falling*
sum, esse, fui - *be*

Notes

Section G

Lines 1 - 2

iam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque; quam tamen
faces multae variaque lumina solvebant.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 iam - <i>now</i>
dies, diei m. - <i>day</i>
alibi - <i>elsewhere</i>
illic - <i>there</i>
nox, noctis f. - <i>night, darkness</i>
omnis, omne - <i>all, every</i>
nox, noctis f. - <i>night, darkness</i>
niger, nigra, nigrum - <i>black, dark</i>
densus, densa, densum - <i>thick</i></p> | <p>qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
tamen - <i>however</i>
2 fax, facis f. - <i>torch</i>
multi, multae, multa - <i>many</i>
varius, varia, varium - <i>various, varied</i>
-que - <i>and</i>
lumen, luminis n. - <i>light, lamp</i>
solvo, solvere, solvi, solutus - <i>loosen, dispel</i></p> |
|---|--|

Notes

Section G

Lines 2 - 4

placuit egredi in litus, et ex
proximo adspicere, ecquid iam mare admitteret; quod adhuc vastum et
adversum permanebat.

- 2 placeo, placere, placui + dat. - *suit, be pleasing to (here: decide)*
egredior, egredi, egressus sum - *go out*
in + acc. - *onto*
litus, litoris m. - *sea-shore, shore*
et - *and*
ex + abl - *from*

- 3 proximus, proxima, proximum – *very close (in proximo = at close quarters)*
adspicio, adspicere, adspexi,
adspectus - *look at, investigate, check*

- ecquis ecquid - *anyone, anything*
iam - *now*
mare, maris n. - *sea*
admitto admittere admisi
admissus - *allow, give access*
qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
adhuc - *still*
vastus, vasta, vastum - *enormous, vast, empty*
4 adversus, adversa, adversum - *threatening, adverse, hostile*
permaneo, permanere, permansi
- *remain, stay*

Notes

Section G

Lines 4 - 7

ibi super abiectum linteum recubans semel atque
iterum frigidam aquam poposcit hausitque. deinde flammae 5
flammarumque praenuntius odor sulphuris alios in fugam vertunt, excitant
illum.

4 ibi - *there*

super + acc - *on, on top of*
abiectus, abiecta, abiectum -
thrown down

linteum, linteus - *linen cloth, sheet*
recubans, gen. recubantis - *lying*
down, reclining

semel - *once*

atque - *and*

5 iterum - *again*

frigidus, frigida, frigidum - *cold*

aqua, aquae - *water*

posco, poscere, poposci -
demand, ask for

haurio, haurire, hausi, haustus -
drain, drink up

deinde - *then*

flamma, flammae f. - *flame*

6 praenuntius, praenuntius m. -
warning sign, foreteller

odor, odoris m. - *smell*

sulphur, sulphuris n. - *sulphur*

alius, alia, aliud - *other*

in + acc - *into, towards*

fuga, fugae f. - *escape, flight*

verto, vertere, verti, versus - *turn*

excito, excitare, excitavi, excitatus
- *rouse, wake up*

7 ille, illa, illud - *he, she, it*

Notes

Section G

Lines 7 - 9

innitens servolis duobus adsurrexit et statim concidit, ut ego colligo, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo, clausoque stomacho qui illi natura invalidus et angustus et frequenter aestuans erat.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>7 innitens, gen. innitentis + dat. - <i>leaning on</i>
servolus, servoli m. - <i>young slave</i>
duo, duae, duo - <i>two</i>
adsurgo adsurgere adsurrexi
adsurrectus - <i>get up, stand up</i>
et - <i>and</i>
statim - <i>at once</i>
concido, concidere, concidi - <i>fall down, collapse</i>
ut - <i>as, so</i>
ego, mei - <i>I, me</i>
colligo colligere college collectus - <i>infer, deduce, put together in mind (here: imagine)</i></p> <p>8 crassus, crassa, crassum - <i>thick</i>,
caligo, caliginis f. - <i>fumes, thick air</i>
spiritus, spiritus m. - <i>breathing, breath, spirit</i></p> | <p>obstructus, obstructa, obstructum - <i>obstructed, blocked</i>
clausus, clausa, clausum - <i>closed, shut</i>
stomachus, stomachi m. - <i>windpipe</i>
qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
ille, illa, illud - <i>that, he, she, it</i>
natura, naturae f. - <i>nature, natural condition</i></p> <p>9 invalidus, invalida, invalidum - <i>weak</i>
angustus, angusta, angustum - <i>narrow</i>
frequenter - <i>frequently</i>
aestuans, gen. aestuantis - <i>inflamed</i>
sum, esse, fui - <i>be</i></p> |
|--|--|
-
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-
-
-
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Notes

Section G

Lines 9 - 12

ubi dies redditus (is ab
eo quem novissime viderat tertius), corpus inventum integrum inlaesum 10
opertumque ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quam defuncto
similior.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>9 ubi - <i>when</i>
dies, diei m. - <i>daylight</i>
redditus, reddita, redditum -
<i>given back, returned</i>
is, ea, id - <i>he, she, it; that</i>
ab + abl. - <i>from</i></p> <p>10 qui, quae, quod - <i>who, which</i>
novissimus, novissima,
novissimum - <i>last, most recent,</i>
<i>newest</i>
video, videre, vidi, visus - <i>see</i>
tertius, tertia, tertium - <i>third</i>
corpus, corporis n. - <i>body</i>
inventus, inventa, inventum -
<i>found</i>
integer, integra, integrum - <i>intact</i></p> | <p>inlaesus, inlaesa, inlaesum -
<i>uninjured, unhurt</i></p> <p>11 opertus, operta, opertum -
<i>covered, covered up</i>
ut - <i>as, just as, like</i>
sum, esse, fui - <i>be</i>
induo, induere, indui, indutus -
<i>dress, put on (clothes)</i>
habitus, habitus m. - <i>appearance</i>
quiescens, gen. quiescentis -
<i>resting (here: sleeping)</i>
quam - <i>than</i>
defunctus defuncta defunctus +
abl - <i>dead, finished with</i></p> <p>12 similis, simile + dat. - <i>like, similar</i>
<i>to</i></p> |
|--|---|

Notes

Section H

Lines 1 - 2

interim Miseni ego et mater - sed nihil ad historiam, nec tu aliud quam
de exitu eius scire voluisti. finem ergo faciam.

1 interim - *meanwhile*

Misenum, Miseni n. - *Misenum, a town on the promontory forming the northern end of the Bay of Naples*

ego, mei - *I, me*

et - *and*

mater, matris f. - *mother*

sed - *but*

nihil - *nothing*

ad + acc - *towards, to*

historia, historiae f. - *story (of past events), history*

nec - *and not, nor*

tu, tui - *you*

alius alia aliud - *other*

quam - *than*

2 de + abl - *from, about*

exitus, exitus m. - *death, a way out*

is, ea, id - *he, she, it; that*

scio, scire, scivi, scitus - *know*

volo, velle, volui - *want*

finis, finis m. - *end*

ergo - *therefore*

facio, facere, feci, factus - *make*

Notes

Section H

Lines 2 - 5

unum adiciam, omnia me
 quibus interfueram quaeque statim, cum maxime vera memorantur,
 audieram, persecutum. tu potissima excerpes; aliud est enim epistulam
 aliud historiam, aliud amico aliud omnibus scribere. vale.

5

- 2 unus, una, unum - *one*
 adicio, adicere, adieci, adiectus -
add, add a new thought
 omnis, omne - *all, every*
 (omnia = *everything*)
 ego mei - *I, me*
- 3 qui, quae, quod - *who, which*
 intersum, interesse, interfui + dat.
 - *attend, be present at, be*
involved in
 -que - *and*
 statim - *at once*
 cum + subjunctive - *when, since,*
because, although
 maxime - *very greatly*
 verus, vera, verum - *true, real*
 memoro, memorare, memoravi,
 memoratus - *recall, remember,*
recount
- 4 audio audire audivi auditus - *hear*

- persecutus, persecuta,
 persecutum - *followed, pursued*
(here: described, recounted)
 tu, tui - *you*
 potissimus, potissima,
 potissimum - *most important*
(here: relevant)
 excerpo, excepere, excerpsi,
 excerptus - *pick out*
- 5 alius alia aliud - *other, different*
 enim - *for*
 epistula, epistulae f. - *letter*
 historia, historiae f. - *history, story*
of past events
 amicus amici m. - *friend*
 alius alia aliud - *other*
 scribo, scribere, scripsi, scriptus -
write
 vale - *goodbye, farewell*

Notes

The Eruption of Vesuvius, AD 79 - from Pliny the Younger, Letters VI.20

Pliny the Younger's account of the death of his uncle prompted Tacitus to ask for more information about the eruption of Vesuvius. This second letter describes the younger Pliny's own reactions on that day and his first-hand observations of how other people behaved.

You say that the letters which I wrote to you about my uncle's death have encouraged you to want to know not only about the fears but also the dangers I endured while I was left at Misenum - for I broke off when I had begun this part. 'Although my mind shudders at the memory, I shall begin...'

5

Notes

J

After my uncle set out I passed the rest of the time with my studies - I had remained behind for this reason. Then I had a bath, dinner and a brief, restless nap. For many days there had been earth tremors, they were not particularly frightening because they are common in Campania; however on that night they were so strong that everything seemed not just to be 5 moved but to be overturned. My mother burst into my bedroom just as I was rising to wake her, if she had still been asleep. We sat in the courtyard of the house which was placed between the sea and the buildings. I do not know whether I ought to call this bravery or stupidity - I was seventeen. I requested a book of Titus Livy, and I read as though I were 10 at leisure and even carried on with the extracts which I had begun. Then a friend of my uncle who had recently joined him from Spain, when he saw my mother and I sitting, and me actually reading, complained of her patience and my lack of concern. Nevertheless I remained intent on the book. 15

Notes

K

It was now the first hour of the day, and there was as yet a doubtful and weak light. The buildings around about were still shaking and although we were in an open space, it was however narrow and there our fear of the house's imminent ruin was great. Then at last it seemed sensible to leave the town; a terrified crowd followed us, in a state of fear which resembled 5 good judgement, and they preferred the decision of someone else rather than their own; they were going in such a huge group that they crowded around us and carried us away. When we had left the houses, we stopped. There we saw many strange things, many terrors. For the carriages which we had ordered to be brought out, began to move in 10 opposite directions, although they were on the flattest of land, and would not stay still in the same place even when propped up with stones. We also saw the sea being sucked back on itself as if pushed by the earth tremor. Certainly the shore became larger and left many sea creatures high and dry on the sand. From behind us a terrifying black cloud was 15 ripped apart by twisted and quivering bursts of fire and gaped open into long tongues of flame: they were similar to lightning forks and bigger.

Notes

L

Not much later that cloud descended onto the ground and covered the sea; it encircled Capreae and concealed it; it rushed upon the promontory of Misenum and stole it away from our sight. Then my mother begged, encouraged and ordered me to flee in whatever way I could; for a young man could do it, and that she being old and slow of body would die happy 5 if she had not been the cause of my death. I, on the contrary, would not save myself unless we were together; and then grasping her hand I compelled her to speed up. She obeyed unwillingly and accused herself of delaying me.

Notes

M

Now ash was falling although not thickly at this point. I looked back: pressing on us was a thick fog which spread across the land like a burning flood. 'Let us turn off the road,' I said, 'while we can see, in case we are left sprawled in the road and crushed by the crowd following us in the dark.' We had scarcely sat down, when night fell - not that of a moonless 5 and cloudy night, but as if a light had been extinguished in a closed room. You could hear the shrieking of the women, the wailing of infants, the shouts of the men; some were calling for parents, some for children, some for wives, they were trying to recognise them by their voices; these were lamenting their own fate, those the fate of their relatives; there were those 10 who were praying for death in their very terror of death. Many raised their hands to the gods, more concluded that there were no longer any gods and that this was a new and eternal night for the world. Nor was there a lack of those who increased the real dangers with made-up lies and terrors. There were those who reported that part of Misenum had 15 collapsed and part was on fire, these were false reports but they found people to believe them.

Notes

N

At last it grew light again, this seemed to us not to be day but the sign of an approaching fire. However, the fire halted some way off, the darkness returned and there was ash again, a lot of it and heavy. Every now and then we got up and shook it off otherwise we should have been covered and even crushed by its weight. I can boast that no groan, no sound less 5 than brave escaped me in these great dangers, except that I believed the end was nigh for me alongside everyone else and that, alongside poor me, the whole world was ending - which nevertheless was a great comfort in death. At last the darkness thinned as though it disappeared into smoke and cloud; soon real daylight returned, even the sun shone, however it 10 was yellowish as it is in an eclipse. Everything which our frightened eyes encountered was changed and buried deep in ash like in snow.

Notes

O

We returned to Misenum, having attended to our bodies in whatever way we could, and spent a night hanging uncertainly between hope and fear. Fear was uppermost; for the earth tremors continued and very many people, distracted by terrifying predictions, were making fun of their own and other people's misfortunes. However, not even then, though we had 5 been through danger and were expecting it, did we have any intention of leaving until we had news of my uncle. These things, which are certainly not worthy of history, you will read without any wish to write about them and will, no doubt, blame yourself for asking about them if they do not seem worthy even of a letter. Farewell. 10

Notes