



CSCP Support Materials

for

Eduqas GCSE Latin, Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *The Flood*

For examination in 2020 and 2021

Teacher's Notes: Section C



Section C: Jupiter causes the flooding of the world to begin (*Metamorphoses* 1.262-273)

Jupiter shuts away the North wind and unleashes the South wind, which brings heavy rainfall to the earth, flattening the crops.

Notes

- 1 **Aeoliis:** this refers to Aeolus, the ruler of the winds. It may be worth drawing students' attention to the fact that this adjective describes the noun *antris*, and that this is the first example in the set text of the common poetic technique of separating a noun-adjective pair with several intervening words (other examples in Section C are *quaecumque...flamina*, *inductas...nubes*, *madidis...alis*, *terribilem...vultum*, *picea...caligine*, *canis...capillis*, *densi...nimbi*, *nuntia...induta*, *varios...colores*, *deplorata...vota*, and *longi...anni*).
- 1-3 **claudit...emittitque:** the subject of these verb is not given, but it is Jupiter who does both actions (he has been the subject since Section A, "the king of the gods"). These verbs – as with many throughout the set text – are in the "historic present tense", i.e. a present tense used to describe a past action to make the events seem more exciting and vivid. Other examples in Section C are *evolat* (line 3), *fluit* (line 5), *sedent* and *rorant* (line 6), *fit* and *funduntur* (line 8), *concipit* and *adfert* (line 10), *sternuntur* (line 11) and *iacent* and *perit* (line 12). It is fine to translate verbs in the historic present tense as if they were past tense verbs, although it is worth noting that they are literally present tense when considering the steps that Ovid has taken to make his text vivid.
- 1-3 **Aquilonem...Notum:** Aquilo was literally the "north-north-east" wind, but more generally the North wind, whereas Notus was the South wind. Ancient Greeks and Romans tended to think of their winds as personified gods.
- 2 **quaecumque fugant inductas flamina nubes:** pupils may need some guidance that this whole phrase is the second object of *claudit* (*Aquilonem* is the first).
- 3 **emittit...evolat:** notice the "e-" prefix that links these two verbs.
- 4 **tectus...vultum:** *tectus* agrees with *Notus* (line 3), and the use with it of *vultum* is an example of the accusative of respect, i.e. "covered as to the face".
- 3-8 **Notus:** The UK Met Office note on their website that "southerly winds can sometimes bring hot, thundery weather" (<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/weather-for-kids/understanding-weather>), and rainy thunder is indeed what Notus brings here. Note the many words and phrases which imply this inclement weather: *madidis* (line 3, also emphasised as the first word of the sentence), *picea caligine* (line 4), *nimbis*

(line 5), *unda fluit* (line 5), *nebulae* (line 6), *rorant* (line 6), *nubila* (line 7), *fragor* (line 8), and *nimbi* (line 8). A learned Roman may well also have realised that Notus is originally a Greek term for the south wind, with the related Greek adjective “notios” meaning “moist, damp, rainy”.

- 6 **-que:** note the use of this conjunction twice at the end of the line – an example of polysyndeton, and common in epic poetry.
- 8 **fit fragor...funduntur:** Cicero once described the letter F as “a most unpleasant letter” (*Orator* 49.163); on that basis, its repetition here may have added to Ovid’s description of the thunderstorm by making the words describing thunder and rain sound, like the weather they describe, disagreeable.
- funduntur:** this verb is passive, but it makes more sense to translate it actively. The choice of verb certainly suggests a high intensity of rain.
- 9 **nuntia lunonis:** this is the goddess Iris, whose association with rainbows becomes clear from the reference to *varios...colores*. She is named in line 10.
- 11 **sternuntur segetes:** this phrase is highlighted by sibilance, and the use of a passive verb makes it clear that the crops are in no way in control of what is happening to them, giving a sense of the power of the flood.
- 12 **vota:** the word means “vows” but also “desires” or “prayers”.
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Questions

1. Look at lines 1-3 (*protinus...Notum*): what does Jupiter do here?
2. Look at lines 3-10 (*madidis...adfert*):
 - a. Quote and translate **three** Latin words with which Ovid personifies Notus here.
 - b. How does Ovid give the impression of the wet weather here?
3. Look at lines 11-12 (*sternuntur...anni*): what effects does the wet weather have here?