

Student Sample of Analysis and Translation for Latin  
LA80

I. Hesterno, Licini, die otiosi (25 minutes)

multum lusimus in meis tabellis,  
ut convenerat esse delicatos:  
scribens versiculos uterque nostrum  
ludebat numero modo hoc modo illoc, (5)  
reddens mutua per iocum atque vinum.  
Atque illinc abii tuo lepore  
incensus, Licini, facetiisque,  
ut nec me miserum cibus iuaret  
nec somnus tegetet quiete ocellos, (10)  
sed toto indomitus furore lecto  
versarer, cupiens videre lucem,  
ut tecum loquerer simulque ut essem.  
At defessa labore membra postquam  
semimortua lectulo iacebant, (15)  
hoc, iucunde, tibi poema feci,  
ex quo perspiceres meum dolorem.  
Nunc audax cave sis, precesque nostras,  
oramus, cave despuas, ocelle,  
ne poenas Nemesis reposcat a te. (20)  
Est vemens\* dea: laedere hanc caveto.

\* vemens: also spelled vehemens in some texts

In the poem above, Catullus describes a day during which a writing contest took place. In a well-organized essay, discuss the nature of the day's activities, the effects they had on Catullus, and the relationship between the two friends.

**BE SURE TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THE LATIN IN THE POEM ABOVE TO SUPPORT YOUR ESSAY. Do NOT simply summarize what the poem says.**

In this poem Catullus describes a day during which a writing contest took place with Licinius (Calvus). In the first six lines Catullus describes the day's events saying that they played much in his tablets (multum lusimus in meis tabellis - we played much in my tablets) with each of them (uterque nostrum = each of us) playing now in this meter now in that meter (numero modo hoc modo illoc). The anaphora of modo emphasizes the variety (reddens mutua = returning mutual things) and joyous feeling associated with writing little verses (scribens versiculos) with Licinius. In lines 9-13 Catullus describes the effect Licinius had on him as he, wretched (miserum), is unable to eat or sleep (ut nec cibus iuaret nec somnus tegetet quiete ocellos = that food did not please me nor did sleep cover my eyes in rest). Instead he is continuously tossed and turned (versarer) throughout the night,

desiring to see the light (*cupiens videre lucem*) so that he can speak with (*loquerer*) and at the same time be with (*simulque ut essem*) Licinius. Catullus, calling himself inflamed (*incensus*), wretched in love (*miserum*) and now, in line 11, wild with fury (*indomitus furore*), emphasizes the fact that he very much adores Licinius and is growing weak from the power of his own passion. In lines 14-17 Catullus describes how he attempted to handle his desire to be with Licinius: after his limbs, tired from the labor (*defessa labore membra postquam*) of tossing and turning all night, lie half dead on the little bed (*semimortua lectulo iacebant*), Catullus wrote this particular poem (*hoc tibi poema feci*) from which Licinius might perceive his pain (*ex quo perspiceres meum dolorem*), that is, the pain of longing. Using the diminutive of *lectulo* (little bed), Catullus reinforces his affectionate feelings. In lines 18-21 Catullus warns Licinius that he must not reject him (*precesque nostras cave despuas* ☐ beware of rejecting our prayers) lest Nemesis, the Goddess of Justice, demand punishments (*ne poenas Nemesis reposcat*) from him. Through this statement, Catullus attempts to ensure that his feelings are returned by pretending to threaten Licinius, but not without calling him a gem (*ocelle*), thus illustrating not only his love but also his doubt that it may not be returned.