

**2004 SAN ANTONIO CLASSICAL SOCIETY**  
**TSJCL AREA B ACADEMIC OLYMPICS**  
**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**LEVELS ½A, ½B, AND 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** Please read the following stories and mark the best answer to each question on your answer sheet:

**Passage A:**

## GĀIUS MŪCIUS SCAEVOLA

1 Porsenna rēx est quī in Etrūriā habitat nec Rōmānōs amat. exercitum igitur colligit et Etruscōs  
 2 Rōmam dūcit. Rōmānī intrā mūrōs manent et tandem cibum nōn habent. Porsenna autem ab  
 3 oppidō nōn abit. tandem Gāius Mūcius, quī patriam servāre vult, Porsennam occīdere constituit.  
 4 noctū igitur Rōmānī portās aperiunt, et Mūcius ex oppidō exit et ad Etruscōs venit. ibi in densā  
 5 turbā stat nec Etruscī eum agnoscunt. Porsenna magnum tabernāculum habet; itaque Mūcius ad  
 6 tabernāculum it et per rīmam spectat. duo virī in tabernāculō sedent; alter recitat, alter scrībit.  
 7 Mūcius subitō gladium ē vāgīnā stringit et tabernāculum intrat et eum, quī scrībit, occīdit, et  
 8 clāmat, “ita tē, ō Porsenna, occīdō!” Porsenna autem gladium stringit et clāmat, “ego Porsenna  
 9 sum. scrība mortuus est.” forte prope eōs in tabernāculō āra stat, et ex ārā flammae surgunt.  
 10 Mūcius ad āram it, et dextram in flammās porrigit et, “ō dextra,” inquit, “stulta es; scrība, nōn  
 11 Porsenna, mortuus est.” dextram ē flammīs nōn retinet; itaque flammae eam consūmunt.  
 12 Porsenna attonitus rogat, “quis es, ō vir impavide, et unde venīs?” respondet alter, “Gāius  
 13 Mūcius sum, Rōmā veniō. occīde mē sī vīs. multōs tamen amīcōs in oppidō habeo quī tē  
 14 interficere volunt.” Porsenna respondet, “Rōmam redī, tē punīre nōlō.” Rōmānī Mūcium  
 15 laudant et eum Scaevolam adpellant. Porsenna autem Rōmā abit et ad Etrūriam redit et, “tam  
 16 validōs,” inquit, “virōs vincere nōn possum.”

Vocabulary**tabernāculum, -ī** – tent**rīma, -ae** – hole, crack**vāgīna, -ae** – sheath**stringō, -ere, strinxī, strictus** – to draw out**porrigō, -ere, -rexī, -rectus** – to stretch out**impavidus, -a, -um** – fearless, unafraid**adpellō, -āre, -āvī, -ātus** – to name, call

1. **vērūm aut falsūm: prō lineā I, rēx Porsenna Rōmānōs nōn amat.**  
 (a) vērūm (b) falsūm
2. **quō Porsenna exercitum ducit?** (a) in Etrūriā (b) Rōmam (c) Etruscōs  
 (d) Rōmānōs
3. What happened to the Romans? (a) they attacked and were defeated by Porsenna  
 (b) they surrendered to Porsenna (c) they stayed within the city walls (d) they fended  
 off Porsenna at the bridge

4. What does Gaius Mucius want to do? (a) he wants to serve Porsenna (b) he wants to serve his country (c) he wants to attack the Etruscans (d) he wants to protect his country
5. What did Gaius Mucius decide to do? (a) to ambush the Etruscan army (b) to serve Porsenna (c) to kill Porsenna (d) to make a treaty with Porsenna
6. **quandō Mūcius ad Etruscōs it?** (a) **noctū** (b) **māne** (c) **oppidō** (d) **Etrūriā**
7. According to lines 4-6, which of the following is NOT true? (a) the Etruscans did not recognize Mucius (b) Mucius was able to go unnoticed in the crowd (c) Mucius saw Porsenna's big tent from the outside (d) Mucius left Rome without anyone from either side noticing him
8. **ubi Mūcius per rīmam spectābat, quid Porsenna agēbat?** (a) **scribēbat** (b) **dormiēbat** (c) **pugnābat** (d) **recitābat**
9. How did Porsenna react to Mucius' action? (a) he cried out in terror (b) he was killed (c) he tried to escape the tent (d) he drew out his sword
10. **quid stābat prope Mūcium et Porsennam in tabernāculō?** (a) **āra** (b) **custōs** (c) **canis** (d) **larārium**
11. Mucius reacted to his mistake in all of the following manners EXCEPT (a) he called his hands stupid (b) he stretched out his right hand (c) he allowed his right hand to be burned (d) he told Porsenna that there are others who want to kill him
12. **quālis erat Porsenna ubi Mūcium porrigentem dextram in flammās vīderat?** (a) **timidus** (b) **laetus** (c) **attonitus** (d) **miserrimus**
13. How did Porsenna react to Mucius' statement? (a) he said that he would kill all the Romans (b) he said that Mucius would not be punished (c) he said that he would conquer Rome (d) he said that he would be triumphant
14. How did the Romans receive Mucius? (a) they called him a failure (b) they praised him (c) they called him the savior of their city (d) they executed him for his failure
15. The best translation of **Rōmā** in line 15 is (a) at Rome (b) near Rome (c) to Rome (d) from Rome

Passage B:

ĀNSERĒS SACRĪ RŌMAM SERVANT

- 1 Gallī cōpiās ē Galliā dūxerant et prope Tiberim castra posuerant. agricolās terruerant; multa  
2 animālia cēperant aut interfēcerant; aedificia incenderant. propter periculum agricolae liberōs  
3 servōsque coēgerant; ex agrīs Rōmam fūgerant. Gallī nunc ad mūrōs Rōmae perveniunt.
- 4 mox Rōmānī Gallōs circum mūrōs Rōmae audiunt. quod Rōmae est magna inopia frūmentī,  
5 liberī sunt iēiūnī.
- 6 in arce Rōmānā prope mūrōs est magna cavea. in caveā sunt sacri ānserēs Iūnōnis, deae et  
7 rēgīnae deōrum. quamquam est magna inopia frūmentī, Rōmānī cotīdiē ānseribus frūmentum  
8 dant quod ānserēs sunt sacri.
- 9 noctū Gallī in arcem ascendere parant; Rōmānī dormiunt. ānserēs nōn dormiunt quod  
10 frūmentum edunt. Gallī ad mūrōs fūrtim properant. Gallus super Gallum stat et mox prīmus  
11 Gallus ascendit mūrum. ānserēs Gallōs audiunt; Rōmānōs excitant. Mārcus Mānlius, mīles  
12 Rōmānus, est prope mūrum. Mānlius ānserēs audit, et Gallum hastā interficit. multī virī veniunt  
13 et cum Gallīs fortiter pugnant; Gallī fugiunt.
- 14 ita ānserēs Rōmam servāvērunt.

Vocabulary

ānser, -is – goose

castra, -ōrum – (military) camp

inopia, -ae – lack, want

iēiūnus, -a, -um – hungry

arx, arcis – citadel

cavea, -ae – cage, coop

fūrtim – stealthily

ita – thus, in this way

16. **ubi Gallī castra posuērunt?** (a) ē Galliā (b) prope Tiberim (c) sub mūrō  
(d) in agrīs
17. Which of the following did the Gauls NOT do? (a) they killed many farmers  
(b) they seized many animals (c) they burned many buildings (d) they killed many  
animals
18. Why did the farmers force their slaves to leave? (a) because of the impending danger  
(b) because of the lack of food (c) because of the lack of money (d) because they  
wanted them to protect their children
19. **quō fūgērunt?** (a) ex agrīs (b) ē Galliā (c) Rōmam (d) ad Tiberim
20. What did the Gauls do when they arrived? (a) they set fire to the walls (b) they made  
an immediate attack (c) they killed the refugees (d) they surrounded the walls

21. The best translation of **Rōmae** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of line 4 is (a) of Rome (b) to Rome (c) at Rome (d) from Rome
22. According to line 4, why are the children hungry? (a) because they haven't eaten in days (b) because there was a lack of grain (c) because the Romans wanted to feed the citizens first (d) because the Romans wanted to feed the geese first
23. **cuius ānserēs in magnā caveā habitābant?** (a) **Iovis** (b) **Apollīnis** (c) **Iūnōnis** (d) **Minervae**
24. **quālēs erant ānserēs?** (a) **Rōmānī** (b) **iēiūnī** (c) **sacrī** (d) **mūrōs**
25. How often did the Romans feed the geese? (a) once a day (b) twice a day (c) every other day (d) everyday
26. Why did the Romans feed the geese? (a) because they were sacred (b) because they guarded the citadel (c) because they wanted to fatten them up as food (d) because they wanted to sacrifice them
27. **quandō Gallī arcem ascendēbant?** (a) **noctū** (b) **māne** (c) **merīdiē** (d) **cotīdiē**
28. What were the Romans doing while the Gauls were ascending the citadel? (a) they were preparing for the arrival of the Gauls (b) they were making a sacrifice (c) they were praying to the gods (d) they were sleeping
29. What were the geese doing while the Gauls were ascending the citadel? (a) they were sleeping (b) they were being sacrificed (c) they were eating (d) they were guarding the entrance
30. What plan did the Gauls use to climb over the walls? (a) they made a human ladder (b) they used a battering ram to break open the walls (c) they used ropes to ascend the walls (d) they snuck through the entrance while the guards were sleeping
31. **quot Gallī ā Mānliō interfectī sunt?** (a) **ūnus** (b) **duo** (c) **trēs** (d) **quattuor**
32. **quō Mānlius Gallum interfēcit?** (a) **ānserēs** (b) **hastā** (c) **sonitū** (d) **mūrō**
33. **quō modō Rōmānī pugnābant?** (a) **celeriter** (b) **ferōciter** (c) **lentē** (d) **fortiter**
34. The best translation of **hastā** in line 12 is (a) from a spear (b) to a spear (c) with a spear (d) a spear
35. **quae pars ōrātiōnis est “pugnant”?** (a) **nōmen** (b) **verbum** (c) **prōnōmen** (d) **coniūnctiō**

**TIE-BREAKERS:** The following questions will be scored only to break ties.

**Passage C:**

DĒ RĀNĀ ET VACCĀ

- 1 in prātō quondam ambulābat rāna; vacca quoque ambulābat. rāna vīdit vaccam, et tācta invidiā  
2 tantae magnitudinis, sē multum īnflāvit. filiōs rogāvit: “sumne tam lāta quam vacca?” illī  
3 negāvērunt. rūsus sē īnflāvit et rūsus rogāvit: “sumne tam alta quam vacca?” “minimē,  
4 minimē,” respondent rānae parvae. et dum sē rūsus īnflāt, rāna invidiōsa sē rumpit et iacet  
5 mortua.

Vocabulary

**rāna, -ae** – frog

**vacca, -ae** - cow

**prātum, -ī** – meadow

**invidia, -ae** – envy

**rūsus** – again

96. What caused the frog’s envy? (a) the size of the cow (b) the strength of the cow  
(c) the beauty of the cow (d) the food of the cow
97. What did the frog do as a result of seeing the cow? (a) she was scared and ran away  
(b) she wanted to be a cow (c) she tried to increase her size (d) she went to her home  
in the pond
98. The best translation of **tam...quam** in line 2 is (a) so...than (b) as...as (c) such...as  
(d) more...than
99. Which of the following did NOT happen to the frog? (a) she blew herself up (b) she  
killed herself (c) she asked her sons about her size (d) she ate herself to death
100. Which of the following is the moral of the story? (a) when the poor ape the rich, they  
court disaster (b) fortune favors the brave (c) he has favored our undertakings  
(d) the gods help those who help themselves