

READING COMPREHENSION LEVEL II: 06  
**2006 SAN ANTONIO CLASSICAL SOCIETY**  
**TSJCL AREA B ACADEMIC OLYMPICS**  
**READING COMPREHENSION LEVEL II**

**Presbyter et Miles**

Quidam presbyter(priest) in Francia equum optimum habebat. Accidit ut frater eius, qui miles erat, eundem equum multum cuperet, ut eo in certamine uteretur; sed nullo modo eum obtinere potuit. Tandem multis precibus imperavit ut frater equum tres dies sibi commodaret(lend). Tum ad unum ex fratris sui servis iit et rogavit: “Quid frater meus frequentius dicit, dum equitat”

Servus posteaquam paulum meditatus est, respondit: “Dominus meus plerumque preces suas dicit, dum equitat, et verba quae frequentius dicit sunt: “Deus in adiutorium meum intende.” (Make haste, oh lord, to deliver me)

Tum miles in equo commodato equitare coepit et, dum equitat, quotiens “Deus in adiutorium meum intende,” dicebat, equum calcaribus(spurs) pungebat(pricked).

Brevi tempore equum tam bene instruxit ut, quotiens miles haec verba dicebat, equus, calcaria timens, cum ne minime quidem pungeretur, tamen quam celerrime currere inciperet et magnos saltus daret. Tribus dies postea, miles equum fratri reddidit.

Postridie , cum presbyter in equo suo equitare inciperet, miles eum secutus est, ut finem videret. Cum autem presbyter preces dicere inciperet, equus magnos saltus dedit et summa vi procurrere incepit. Posteaquam equus hoc idem iterum atque iterum fecit, miles dixit: “Mi frater, iste equus tibi non idoneus est. Magno periculo tuo in eo equitas; nam tu es homo gravis et, si de equo cades, vehementer laederis.”

Tum alter voce tristi “Hic equus ,” inquit, “aequo gradu me ferre solebat; nunc tamen-nescio quo modo id acciderit-multum doleo, quod equum bonum et idoneum amisi. Quae cum ita sint, te oro ut equum accipias; magis enim idoneus militis est quam presbytero.”

Ita miles effecit ut equum cupitum sibi obtineret.

1. Why did the soldier want his brother’s horse?
  - a. in order to race it
  - b. it was beautiful
  - c. he was jealous
  - d. it was valuable
2. What did he convince his brother to do?
  - a. to lend him the horse
  - b. sell him the horse
  - c. buy a new horse
  - d. give him the horse
3. What information did his brother’s slave provide the soldier?
  - a. where the priest kept the horse
  - b. what words he said most frequently
  - c. where his brother had gone
  - d. what the horse liked to eat most frequently

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4. What equipment did he use to train the horse?  
a. a saddle                      b. reins                      c. spurs                      d. food
5. What did the soldier say to make the horse run fast?  
a. a whip                      b. kind words                      c. a kick                      d. a prayer
6. When did the soldier return the horse?  
a. after 13 days                      b. after 30 days                      c. after 3 weeks                      d. after three days
7. Why did the soldier follow his brother?  
a. in order to see what would happen                      b. in order to steal the horse  
c. in order to see where he was going                      d. in order to reach the border
8. What did the horse do again and again?  
a. jump                      b. threw the priest                      c. ran away                      d. made a great noise
9. Why was it dangerous for the priest to ride the horse?  
a. he was too old                      b. he was fat                      c. he was too small to handle the horse  
d. the horse was dangerous
10. Why had the horse been suitable for the priest before?  
a. he was slow                      b. he was obedient                      c. he was docile                      d. he had an even pace
11. Why did the priest now mourn?  
a. the horse was killed                      b. the horse ran away                      c. he lost a good horse  
d. his brother stole the horse
12. What did the priest ask his brother to do?  
a. sell the horse                      b. kill the horse                      c. accept the horse from him                      d. race the horse
13. For whom was the horse best suited?  
a. a soldier                      b. a priest                      c. a young man                      d. an old man

**Patrēs et Plēbs**

Trēdecim annīs postquam Poresenna sē recēpit, bellum Volscum imminēbat, et cīvitās odiō inter patrēs plēbemque incendēbātur maximē ob aes aliēnum(debt). Plēbs querēbātur sē aliēnīs terrīs prō libertāte et imperiō pūgnantem domī ā cīvibus oppressam esse, tūtiōremque in bellō quam in pace et inter hostēs quam inter cīvēs libertāte, plēbis esse. Id odium īnsīgnis ūnius mīlitis calamitās incendit. Senex quīdam sē in forum prōiēcit. Plēna erat squālōris vestis; corpus famē dēfessum. Cognōscēbatur tamen in tantā dēformitāte et multī loquēbantur eum honōres mīlitis meruisse. Ipse mūltārum pugnārum vulnera antīqua ostendit. Rogantibus unde illa vestis et unde dēformitās, ille respondit sē pūgnāvisse Sabīno bellō. Dīxit sē absente agrōs vastātōs esse, casam incēnsam esse, pecora(cattle) abācta esse, itaque ad tributum(tax) pendendum sē aes aliēnum fēcisse. Dīxit prīmō sē agrum avītum(grandfather) āmīsisse, deinde fortūnās aliās, ductum esse sē ab crēditōre in servitūtem. Propter haec vīsa audītaque clāmōr magnus ortus est. Multī oppressī aere aliēnō undique in forum mātūrabant(hurry) ad fidem cīvium petendam. Per omnēs viās cum clāmōre in forum sēditiōnis causā cucurrērunt.

Inter haec nūntiātum est, Volscōs magnō cum exercitū ad urbem oppūgnandum venīre. Plebs gāvīsa est(rejoice) magnopere; patrēs ob perīculum timōre mōtī sunt. Multa meliōra, igitur, cōsulēs pollicitī sunt ut plēbs hostēs repellērunt. Hostēs repulsīs, autem, condiciōnēs plēbis vīsae sunt peiōrēs. Quō factō mātūrāta est sēditiō.

14. When did war threaten?

- a. 30 years after Poresenna's withdrawal      b. 13 years after Poresenna's withdrawal
- c. 3 years after Poresenna's withdrawal      d. 3 months after Poresenna's withdrawal

15. What conflict now threatened the state?

- a. another war with Poresenna      b. a civil war      c. war with the Volscians      d. war with Volsca

16. What was happening at home will the plebs were fighting abroad?

- a. the plebs were fighting for freedom      b. the citizens were stealing their homes
- c. their families were sold into slavery      d. they were being forced into debt

17. By what means was this hatred ignited?

- a. the execution of a soldier      b. the calamities of war      c. a soldier's misfortune      d. natural calamity

18. What kind of man prostrated him self in the forum?

- a. a poor man      b. an old man      c. a brave man      d. a pleb

19. What kind of clothes was he wearing?

- a. filthy      b. a vest      c. old      d. military uniform

20. What had this man earned?

- a. honor in war      b. booty in war      c. a special military uniform      d. a deformity

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21. What things did he show?  
a. scars of old wounds      b. his deformity      c. his military honors      d. his old clothes
22. How had he received these?  
a. in prison      b. from a man named Sabinus      c. from an ancient man      d. fighting in war
23. What had happened while he was away?  
a. his fields were overgrown      b. his land was ruined  
c. his fields were burned      d. his cattled grazed aimlessly
24. Why was he in debt?  
a. he had no money      b. his grandfather left him debt  
c. he was forced to pay taxes      d. he lost his slaves
25. What had happened to him as a result of having lost his fortune?  
a. he lost his cattle      b. sold into servitude      c. his grandfather died      d. he couldn't get credit
26. Why did a great outcry arise?  
a. the unfairness of the man's situation      b. because of the man's word  
c. because of sight of the man      d. both b & c
27. From whom did the debtors seek support?  
a. the citizens      b. the senate      c. the state      d. foreign countries
28. Why did they rush into the forum?  
a. to kill the old man      b. to kill the patricians      c. to kill the senators  
d. in revolt agains their oppressors
29. What was announced?  
a. the approach of the Volscian army      b. the plebs had overcome their oppressors  
c. Volsca approached with a great army      d. the patricians would give in to the plebs
30. What did the consuls promise the plebs?  
a. that they could be consuls      b. better conditions      c. equal rights      d. restoration of their lands
31. In return for what did they make this promise?  
a. weapons      b. land      c. the help of the plebs      d. money
32. Describe the conditions of the plebs toward the end of this passage.  
a. much better      b. the same      c. better      d. worse
33. What now was imminent?  
a. another war with the Volscians      b. another war with Volsca      c. war with Poresenna      d. a revolt

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Postea civitatem descripsit. Centum senatores legit, eosque cum ob aetatem tum ob reverentiam eis debitam “patres” appellavit. Plebem in triginta curias distribuit, easque mulierum raptarum nominibus appellavit. Anno regni tricesimo septimo, cum exercitu lustraret, repente inter violentissimam tempestatem oculis hominum subductus est. Hinc alii eum a senatoribus interfectum esse, alii ad deos sublatum esse existimaverunt. Post Romuli mortem unius anni interregnum fuit. Deinde Numa Pompilius, qui in urbe Curibus habitabat, rex creatus est. Hic vir bellum quidem nullum gessit; nec minus tamen civitati profuit. Nam et leges dedit, et sacra plurima instituit, ut populi barbari et bellicosi mores molliret. Omnia autem, quae faciebat, se nymphae Egeriae, coniungis suae, iussa facere dicebat. Morbo decessit quadragesimo tertio impero anno.

### TIE-BREAKERS:

96. Why were the senators called fathers?

- a. out of respect
- b. because he was indebted to them
- c. because they were lawmakers
- d. because there were 100 of them

97. Who were the curia named after?

- a. 30 senators
- b. the Sabine women
- c. the wives of the plebs
- d. Romulus

98. When was Romulus carried off?

- a. when he was 37
- b. while reviewing the troops
- c. in the seventh year of his reign
- d. in front of the eyes of all men

99. How long before a new king was named?

- a. four years
- b. three years
- c. forty-three years
- d. a year

100. What did Numa do during his reign?

- a. made war on the barbarians
- b. established morals
- c. made laws
- d. married a nymph