

2024 WJCL Memorized Oratory (All Levels)

All passages are taken from those that have been selected for the 2024 NJCL convention

Level 1

Cicero Asks The Senate to Think of Themselves

“Videō, patrēs cōnscriptī, in mē omnium vestrum ōra atque oculōs esse conversōs; videō vōs nōn solum dē vestrō ac reī pūblicaē, vērū etiam, sī id dēpulsum sit, dē meō periculō esse sollicitōs. Est mihi iūcunda in malīs et grāta in dolōre vestra ergā mē voluntās, sed eam, per deōs immortālēs, dēpōnite atque oblītī salūtis meae, dē vōbīs ac dē vestris liberīs cōgitāte.”

Cicero, *In Catilinam IV*, I, 1

Translation:

“I see, conscript fathers, that the faces and eyes of all of you have been turned on me; I see that you all not only are worried about your danger and (that) of the republic, but also, if that may be removed, about my danger. Your good-will toward me is pleasing to me in troubling times and welcome in grief, but put that aside, by the immortal gods, and forgetful of my safety, think about yourselves and about your children.

Level 2

Cicero Speaks of Catiline’s Unpredictability

Atque ille prīmō quidem negāvit; post autem aliquantō, tōtō iam indicio exposito atque editō, surrēxit; quaesivit ā Gallīs, quid sibi esset cum iīs, quam ob rem domum suam vēnissent, itemque ā Volturciō. Quī cum illī breviter cōstanterque respondissent, per quem ad eum quotiēnsque vēnissent, quaesissentque ab eō nihilne sēcum esset dē fātīs Sibyllīnīs locūtus, tum ille subitō scelere dēmēns quanta cōscientiae vīs esset ostendit.

Cicero, *In Catilinam III*, 11

Translation:

And he at first denied (the crime); some time afterwards, with the whole charge exposed and divulged, he got up; he asked the Gauls, what sort of business he had with them, why they had come to his house, and he asked Volturcius the same. When they had responded briefly and firmly, through whom and how many times they had come to him, and they had asked from him whether he had spoken about the Sibylline books with them, then he, suddenly out of his mind because of his crime, showed how great the power of his conscience was.

Advanced (Level 3 and Above)

The Stolen Statue of Ceres

Itaque apud patrēs nostrōs atrōcī ac difficilī reī pūblicae tempore, cum Tiberiō Gracchō occisō magnōrum periculōrum metus ex ostentīs portenderetur, P. Mūciō L. Calpurniō cōsulibus aditum est ad librōs Sibyllinōs; ex quibus inventum est Cererem antiquissimam plācārī oportēre. Tum ex amplissimō collēgiō decemvirālī sacerdotēs populī Rōmānī, cum esset in urbe nostrā Cereris pulcherrimum et magnificentissimum templum, tamen usque Hennam profectī sunt. Tanta enim erat auctōritās et vetustās illius religiōnis ut, cum illūc īrent, nōn ad aedem Cereris sed ad ipsam Cererem proficiscī vidērentur.

From Cicero, *In Verrem* IV.108-109

Therefore, even among our fathers, at a most critical and difficult time of the state, when after Tiberius Gracchus had been killed and fear of great dangers was indicated by the omens, the Sibylline books were consulted when the consuls were Publius Mucius and Lucius Calpurnius; it was found from these works that the most ancient Ceres must be appeased. Then from the most distinguished body of decemvirs, priests of the Roman people even set out all the way to Henna, although there was in our own city a very beautiful and magnificent temple of Ceres. Such was the prestige and reverence for her cult, that when they went there, they seemed to set out, not for a temple of Ceres but for Ceres herself.