

A2 Latin Unseen Verse (OVID) Past Paper: 2012 (The Etruscans versus the Fabii)

A force of over 300 members of the Fabii family makes a successful attack on an army of Etruscans. The remaining Etruscans then prepare to ambush the Fabii.

castra loco ponunt: dstrictis ensibus ipsi
 Tyrrhenum valido Marte per agmen eunt,
 non aliter quam¹ cum Libyca de gente leones
 invadunt sparsos lata per arva greges.
 diffugiunt hostes inhonestaque vulnera tergo 5
 accipiunt: Tusco sanguine terra rubet.²
 sic iterum, sic saepe cadunt. ubi vincere aperte³
 non datur, insidias armaque tecta parant.
 campus erat, campi claudebant ultima colles
 silvaque montanas occulere⁴ apta feras.⁵ 10
 in medio paucos armenta⁶ rara relinquunt,
 cetera virgultis⁷ abdita turba latet.

The Fabii fall into the Etruscans' trap and are massacred.

ecce velut torrens undis pluvialibus auctus
 aut nive,⁸ quae Zephyro victa tepente⁹ fluit,
 per sata¹⁰ perque vias fertur nec, ut ante solebat, 15
 riparum clausas margine finit¹¹ aquas;
 sic Fabii vallem latis discursibus implent,
 quodque vident sternunt, nec metus alter inest.
 fraude perit virtus: in apertos undique campos
 prosiliunt hostes et latus omne tenent. 20
 una dies Fabios ad bellum miserat omnes:
 ad bellum missos perdidit una dies.

Ovid, *Fasti* 2. 207–236 (with omissions)

Names

<i>Tyrrhenus</i> , -a, -um	Etruscan
<i>Mars</i> , <i>Martis</i> (m)	Mars, god of war
<i>Libycus</i> , -a, -um	Libyan
<i>Tuscus</i> , -a, -um	Etruscan
<i>Zephyrus</i> , -i (m)	the west wind
<i>Fabii</i> , -orum (m pl)	the Fabii (a Roman family)

Words

¹ <i>non aliter quam</i>	just as
² <i>rubeo</i> , -ere	I am red
³ <i>aperte</i>	in open battle
⁴ <i>occulo</i> , -ere	I hide
⁵ <i>fera</i> , -ae (f)	wild beast
⁶ <i>armenta</i> , -orum (n pl)	cattle
⁷ <i>virgulta</i> , -orum (n pl)	trees
⁸ <i>nix</i> , <i>nivis</i> (f)	snow
⁹ <i>tepeo</i> , <i>tepere</i>	I am warm
¹⁰ <i>sata</i> , -orum (n pl)	crops
¹¹ <i>finio</i> , -ire	I limit

