

PUBLIUS OVIDIUS NASO

ROME (43 BCE–17/18 CE)

LANGUAGE: LATIN

METAMORPHOSES

(Book II, lines 150–154)

Occupat ille levem iuvenali corpore currum
statque super manibusque leves contingere
 habenās
gaudet et invito grates agit inde parenti.

Interea volucres Pyrois et Eous et Aethon,
Solis equi, quartusque Phlegon hinnitibus
 auras
flammiferis implent pedibusque repagula
 pulsant.



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Publius Ovidius Naso, more famously known as Ovid, was born into a wealthy family in the ancient city of Sulmo, Italy, forty-three years before the birth of Jesus. While Ovid was still a child, his father took him and his brother to Rome to study so that they might become public speakers and politicians. Instead of following the career path chosen by his father, Ovid made good use of what he had learned and became a poet. His most famous work *Metamorphoses* is a storehouse for Greek and Roman mythology. The epic poem is a Latin narrative poem comprised of fifteen books and over 250 myths. The poem chronicles the history of the world from its creation. Through the centuries, *Metamorphoses* has remained one of the most important sources of classical mythology.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
auras (n.)	gasses forming the atmosphere	air, winds, the breeze, gusts
contingere (gerund)	grasping something	taking hold of, seizing, gripping, clasping, clutching
corpore currum (n.)	fast-moving, ancient two-wheeled vehicle	chariot
equi (n.)	four-legged animals with manes	horses, mounts, steeds
et (conj.)	in addition to	and
flammiferis (adj.)	glowing hot	fiery, burning, blazing
gaudet (v.)	shows joy	rejoices, enjoys, takes pleasure in, with pleasure, delightedly
habenas (n.)	strap controlling the horse	reins, restraints, leads, bridles
hinnitibus (n.)	the sounds a horse makes	whinnies, neighs
ille (pron.)	male not referred to by name	he, the boy
implent (v.)	take up all the space	fill, load, cram in, fill up
interea (adv.)	while something is happening	meanwhile, in the meantime, in the intervening times
invito grates agit inde (phrase)	expressing unwilling gratitude	thanks his reluctant, thanks his unwilling
levem iuvenali (adj.)	fast-moving	swift, fast, quick, rapid, fleet, speedy
leves (adj.)	not loaded	light, not heavy, weightless, insubstantial
manibusque (n.)	end of the human arm	hands
metamorphoses (n.)	a change in form	metamorphosis, transformation
occupat (v.)	fill some space or time; take over a place	occupies, takes possession of, seizes
parenti (n.)	man who is a parent	father, parent, his father, his parent
pedibusque (n.)	end of the legs; plural of foot	feet

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
pulsant (v.)	cause something to advance by force; walk heavily upon	push against, strike upon, beat, hammer, stomp, step on, tromp, trample
Pyrois, Eous, Aethon, Phlegon (n.)	proper names for the sun's winged horses	Pyrois, Eous, Aethon, Phlegon
quartusque (n.)	the fourth in a series of horses	and the fourth horse
repagula (n.)	structures blocking access	barriers, restraints, obstacles, bars
solis (poss. pron.)	belong to the sun	the sun's, of the sun
statque (v.)	to be or set upright	standing
super (adv.)	impressively	proudly, extravagantly
volucres (adj.)	covered with feathers; like a bird	feathered, winged, flying

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

METAMORPHOSES _____

Liber II (lineas 150–154) _____

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Interea volucres Pyrois et Eous et Aethon,

Solis equi, quartusque Phlegon hinnitibus auras

flammiferis implent pedibusque repagula pulsan.

REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
