A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CREATING & USING IMAGES IN THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

VISUAL LATIN

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GOALS:

• **Evaluate** the functions of images in language learning.

• **Identify** areas of improvement across existing Latin curricular materials.

• **Offer** tools, techniques, and inspiration for teachers & students to create their own content-rich illustrations.
MEMORIA TENERE!

• This presentation does not aim to prescribe a teaching methodology, but to identify ways in which all types of teachers and learners can benefit from increased, intentional visual input & production.

• If you can* draw a stick figure, you and your students can create effective pedagogical illustrations!

• *you can!
TEACHING WITH IMAGES
CONTEXTUALIZING LATIN

- More Pictures =
  - Less English.
  - More cultural information relayed visually
- More Personalized Pictures =
  - More buy-in from students
We shall imagine the man in question as lying ill in bed, if we know him personally. If we do not know him, we shall yet take some one to be our invalid, but not a man of the lowest class, so that he may come to mind at once. And we shall place the defendant at the bedside, holding in his right hand a cup, in his left, tablets, and on the fourth finger, a ram’s testicles. In this way, we can have in memory the man who was poisoned, the witnesses, and the inheritance.

The cup would remind of the poisoning, the tablets of the will or the inheritance, and the testicles of the ram through verbal similarity with testes – of the witnesses. [...] If we have properly imprinted the places and images we shall easily be able to remember any point that we wish to recall.

Frances Yates, *The Art of Memory*
FIVE FUNCTIONS OF ILLUSTRATIONS

• DECORATION
• REPRESENTATION
• ORGANIZATION
• INTERPRETATION
• TRANSFORMATION
• Representational pictures comprise over half the instances of textbook illustrations.

• Serve to make the content more concrete, not more coherent or comprehensible (organizational, interpretational images). Obviously this is a thin line to draw in terms of secondary language acquisition.

Cambridge Latin Course
ORGANIZATIONAL

- Offers a framework for a text
- Provides greater coherence
- Has a wide variety of applications: can be used in narrative prose, procedural texts, geography, etc.

Lingua Latina per se Illustrata, Capitulum II
• Interpretational pictures clarify difficult-to-understand passages and abstract concepts within passages.

• Goes beyond organizational function (creating a framework) to elucidating technical terms and unfamiliar ideas.
TRANFORMATIONAL

- Designed to “impact on students’ memory directly” by:
  - Recoding it into a more concrete and memorable form
  - Relating in a well-organized context the separate pieces of that information
  - Providing the student with a systematic means of retrieving the critical information when later asked for it.

Cornelius Schut, 1635-1645, British Museum (accessed 06/26/2019)
CREATING AN EFFECTIVE IMAGE

strategizing for clarity & memory
• Line
• Shape
• Space
• Value
• Form
• Texture
• Color

Design Elements
• **INDIVIDUALITY** (what separates it from other images?)
• **RECOGNITION** (can I immediately understand what it is?)
• **INTEREST** (is it funny? shocking? Weird? Cool? Personal?)
• **CONTEXT** (does it fit into a schema? Categories?)

**MEMORY**
Focusing Meaning

consumit mordet

ēst sapit
Contextual Complexity

cenat

inspicy

tangit

recumbit

sumit
Contextual Complexity

femina

stola

cibus

mensa

triclinium

vīr

pōculum

cena

tunica

"
Sequential Grouping
Thematic Grouping
Repetition & Comparison
Interaction
Confusion!
TRADITIONAL DRAWING TOOLS

Pencils (graphite/photo)
Pens
Paper
Rulers/Guides
Scanner/Scanner App
Photo Editing Software (optional)
TRADITIONAL WORKFLOW

1. Sketch
2. Ink
3. Erase & Scan
DIGITAL DRAWING TOOLS

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Sketch
- Clip Studio Paint
- Procreate (iPad only)
- GIMP
- Many others!

Drawing Tablet, iPad/Surface + pen

Drawing/painting programs
DIGITAL WORKFLOW

1. Sketch
2. “Ink”
3. Color
FILE FORMATS

- Good for low-res situations (Kahoot, Quizlet, Gimkit all have fairly strict limits on file size)

  - Transparent background offers a lot of flexibility in terms of image placement, layering, etc.
  - Files can be very large!

- The one that moves!

  - There are excellent programs that make stop-motion/animation easier – a great thing to have your kids do.

.JPEG .PNG .GIF
VOCAB DRAWING DEMO

Instructions:

- You’ve been given an index card. Please write a Latin vocabulary term on it (let’s stick with verbs, for now!) and include one English definition.
- Trade cards with another participant. Now you must illustrate the word that they’ve chosen.
- When you’re done drawing, we’ll scan your image and upload it to Quizlet.