THE RECITĀTIŌ PROJECT

VĪTA COTTĪDIĀNA IN POMPEĪS:
A STORY AND ITS PRESENTATION ABOUT
DAILY LIFE IN POMPEII

A Guide for
Getting Started

Throughout this school year, going back to September, you have been starting the process of building for yourself a rather sizable vocabulary of challenging English words based upon your study of their Latin antecedents (from ante + cēdit, or literally, things “coming before”). You have labeled them by their parts of speech, you have given their roots, you have made observations and you have spotted context clues; you thus defined them, and you then figured out the meanings of similar unseen derivatives, also in context and through that same process; and perhaps most importantly – back in January, on the reading check-in, as well as during our trips to the Met throughout – you have been writing sentences that have illustrated your understanding of how we use them in modern American English idiom today.

And so, in order to take this process to a higher level still, you will now take an assuredly larger step towards ownership, so to speak, of some of these abstruse (from abstrādit, meaning “to conceal”), yet highly common (you might say “ubiquitous,” from ubi in Stg. 5!) words by using them to express your own thoughts in a short story about anything you want related to life in ancient Pompeii, which you will then share with your classmates by reading it aloud (in a recitātiō, or “recital”) like the ancient writers did two thousand years ago!

Here are the parameters...

1. You must use ten of the English derivatives you have covered in the Útilitās Latinae handouts from Stgs. 1 through 5. (You may also choose from the list of words we are going to cover in Stg. 6, available in the MyHewitt topic box entitled “The Recitatio Project.”)

2. You must follow the guidelines on the Recitātiō Project Feedback Form (to be distributed during an upcoming class period).

3. You must keep your short story to 1-2 pages, double-spaced,* with an MLA-formatted heading and title at the top.

* That is, double-spaced using a standard 12-pt. font, with 1” margins throughout, unless otherwise approved.

Oh, and one more thing...

4. The work of art from your fall Docent Project must appear in some way, large or small, within the narrative of your short story!

More on the Format

* Fan Fiction... Write a story using the characters from Cambridge! Maybe even create your own characters to interact with them! Put them in familiar settings, like the triclinium, atrium, forum, or elsewhere in the geography of our textbook’s world. What sorts of things would they do? What sort of narrative hook can you provide to draw in your readers? Is there conflict? Drama? Comedy? Do you empathize with your characters? Will your readers? And will your English derivatives help you to tell this story?

Due Dates

Please turn this sheet over for due dates...
Due Dates

Before the story itself is due, you will be submitting a title and one-sentence teaser via e-mail before the start of class on Tuesday, Apr. 16th (Day 5).

An example might look something like this:

Grumio & the Missing Peacock

   All was well in the home of Caecilius and his family, until the day
   when dinner disappeared through the front door...

As for the short story and the recitatio itself, we will be turning Latin class into a writers workshop (well, the first 20-30 minutes or so, anyway) during these spring months! (It will be similar to how we ran our docent projects in the fall.)

And so, we will now look at the calendar and schedule the dates for your short story presentations to the class, which will be a chance for you to share your creation with your fellow writers.

An optional rough draft (if you’d like feedback from me along the way) is due no later than two class periods before your presentation, via old-timey paper or sent to me via e-mail.

Your final version is due immediately following your presentation, via old-timey paper.

So get your pens and planners out now, please. Let’s head to the class calendar!

“Plato’s Academy.”
Mosaic from Pompeii (Villa of T. Siminius Stephanus).
Early 1st century BC.
Naples, National Archaeological Museum.