











Otium

Section 1

Lines 1-10: Catullus and Calvus Compose Poetry

Catullus, Carmen 50

Grammar Key

 Subject	 Object	 Verb	 Genitive	 Dative
 Ablative	 Preposition	 Conjunction	 Adverb	 Vocative

The Playful Afternoon (Lines 1-3)

1 hesternō,^{1*} Licinī,² diē^{1*} ōtiōsī³

2 multum⁵ lūsimus⁴ in⁶ meīs⁷ tabellīs,⁸

3 ut⁹ convēnerat¹⁰ esse¹¹ dēlicātōs;¹²

Vocabulary

- 1 **hesternus, -a, -um** yesterday's, of yesterday
Licinius, -ī (m.) Licinius Calvus (poet)
diēs, diēī (m./f.) day
ōtiōsus, -a, -um at leisure, idle

2 **multum** (adv.) much, greatly
- lūdō, lūdere, lūsī, lūsum** to play, sport, compose
tabella, -ae (f.) writing tablet

3 **conveniō, -īre, -vērī** to agree, be fitting
dēlicātus, -a, -um refined, playful, charming

Style Notes: Lines 1-3

<div>1. Temporal Framing — hesternō... diē</div> <div>Line 1</div> <div>hesternō... diē ōtiōsī</div> <div></div>
<div>2. Vocative Address — Licinī</div> <div>Line 1</div> <div>hesternō, Licinī, diē...</div> <div></div>
<div>3. Key Theme — ōtiōsī</div> <div>Line 1</div> <div>...diē ōtiōsī</div> <div></div>
<div>4. Ludic Vocabulary — lūsimus</div> <div>Line 2</div> <div>multum lūsimus in meīs tabellīs</div> <div></div>
<div>5. Metonymy — tabellīs</div> <div>Line 2</div> <div>...in meīs tabellīs</div> <div></div>
<div>6. Neoteric Term — dēlicātōs</div> <div>Line 3</div> <div>ut convēnerat esse dēlicātōs</div> <div></div>

Composing Verses (Lines 4-6)

4 scribēns³ versiculōs⁴ uterque¹ nostrum²

5 lūdēbat⁵ numerō⁸ modo⁶ hōc⁷ modo⁹ illōc,¹⁰

6 reddēns¹¹ mūtua¹² per¹³ iocum¹⁴ atque¹⁵ vīnum.¹⁶

Vocabulary

- 4 **scribō, scribere, scripsi** to write
versiculus, -ī (m.) little verse (diminutive)
uterque, utraque, utrumque each of two, both
- 5 **numerus, -ī** (m.) number, metre, rhythm
modo... modo now... now, sometimes... sometimes

- 6 **reddō, reddere, reddidi** to give back, return, exchange
mūtua, -a, -um mutual, reciprocal
iocus, -ī (m.) joke, jest, fun
vīnum, -ī (n.) wine

Style Notes: Lines 4-6

7. Diminutive — versiculōs

Line 4

scribēns versiculōs uterque nostrum

8. Anaphora — modo... modo

Line 5

lūdēbat numerō modo hōc modo illōc

9. Hendiadys — per iocum atque vīnum

Line 6

reddēns mūtua per iocum atque vīnum

Catullus Leaves, Inflamed (Lines 7-8)

7 **atque**¹ **illinc**³ **abī**² **tuō**⁵ **lepōre**⁶

8 **incēnsus**,⁴ **Licini**,⁹ **facetīs**⁸ **-que**,⁷

Vocabulary

7 **atque** (conj.) and, and indeed
 illinc (adv.) from there, thence
 abeō, abīre, abī to go away, depart

lepor, lepōris (m.) charm, wit, grace
8 **incendō, -ere, incendi** to set on fire, inflame
 facētiaē, -ārum (f.pl.) wit, cleverness, humour

Style Notes: Lines 7-8

10. Neoteric Term — lepōre

Line 7

...abū tuō lepōre

11. Erotic Metaphor — incēsus

Line 8

incēsus, Licinī, facetiisque

12. Neoteric Term — facetiīs

Line 8

...Licinī, facetiisque

The Effects of Passion (Lines 9-10)

9 ut¹⁰ nec¹¹ mē¹⁴ miserum¹⁵ cibus¹² iuvāret¹³

10 nec¹⁶ somnus¹⁷ tegeret¹⁸ quiēte²⁰ ocellōs...¹⁹

Vocabulary

9 **ut** (conj.) so that, with the result that
nec (conj.) and not, nor
miser, misera, miserum wretched, miserable
cibus, -ī (m.) food
iuvō, iuvāre, iūvī to help, please, delight

10 **somnus, -ī** (m.) sleep
tegō, tegere, tēxī, tēctum to cover, conceal
quiēs, quiētis (f.) rest, quiet, sleep
ocellus, -ī (m.) little eye (diminutive)

Style Notes: Lines 9-10

13. Dramatic Self-Pity — miserum

Line 9

...*nec mē miserum cibus iuvāret*

14. Diminutive — ocellōs

Line 10

...*quiēte ocellōs*

15. Chiasmus — nec... nec clauses

Lines 9-10

ut nec... cibus iuvāret // nec somnus tegeret... ocellōs