

Otium

Section 2

Lines 11-21: Catullus Cannot Sleep

Catullus, Carmen 50

Grammar Key

 Subject	 Object	 Verb	 Genitive	 Dative
 Ablative	 Preposition	 Conjunction	 Adverb	 Vocative

Tossing in Bed (Lines 11-13)

11 sed¹ tōtō⁶ indomitus² furōre³ lectō⁶

12 versārer,⁴ cupiēns⁷ vidēre⁸ lūcem,⁹

13 ut¹⁰ tēcum¹² loquerer¹¹ simulque¹³ ut¹⁴ essem.¹⁵

Vocabulary

11 **sed** (conj.) but

tōtus, -a, -um whole, entire

indomitus, -a, -um untamed, uncontrollable

furor, furōris (m.) madness, frenzy

lectus, -ī (m.) bed

12 **versor, versārī** to toss about

cupiō, cupere to desire

lūx, lūcis (f.) light, daylight

13 **loquor, loqui** to speak

simul (adv.) at the same time

Style Notes: Lines 11-13

1. Wild Imagery — *indomitus*

Line 11

sed... indomitus furōre

2. Erotic Vocabulary — *furōre*

Line 11

...indomitus furōre

3. Hyperbaton — *tōtō... lectō*

Line 11

sed tōtō... lectō

4. Physical Restlessness — *versārer*

Line 12

...lectō versārer...

5. Desiderative Vocabulary — *cipiēns*

Line 12

...cipiēns vidēre lūcem

6. Dawn Longing — *lūcem*

Line 12

...vidēre lūcem

7. Emphatic Conjunction — *simulque*

Line 13

ut tēcum loquerer simulque ut essem

The Poem as Gift (Lines 14-17)

14 at¹ defessa⁴ labōre⁵ membra³ postquam²

15 sēmimortua⁶ lectulō⁸ iacēbant,⁷

16 hoc,⁹ iūcunde,¹⁰ tibi¹¹ poēma¹² fēci,¹³

17 ex¹⁴ quō¹⁵ perspicerēs¹⁶ meum¹⁷ dolōrem.¹⁸

Vocabulary

14 **at** (conj.) but, yet

defessus, -a, -um exhausted

labor, labōris (m.) toil

membrum, -ī (n.) limb

15 **sēmimortuus** half-dead

lectulus, -ī (m.) little bed (dim.)

iaceō, iacēre to lie

16 **iūcundus, -a, -um** delightful

poēma, -atis (n.) poem

17 **perspicīō, -ere** to see clearly

dolor, dolōris (m.) pain

Style Notes: Lines 14-17

8. Hyperbolic Exhaustion — defessa... membra

Line 14

at defessa labōre membra

9. Compound Adjective — sēmimortua

Line 15

sēmimortua lectulō iacebant

10. Diminutive — lectulō

Line 15

sēmimortua lectulō iacebant

11. Neoteric Term — iūcunde

Line 16

hoc, iūcunde, tibi poēma fecī

12. Self-Referential — hoc... poēma

Line 16

hoc... tibi poēma fecī

13. Erotic Vocabulary — dolōrem

Line 17

...perspicerēs meum dolōrem

Warning to Calvus (Lines 18-21)

18 nunc¹ audāx⁴ cavē² sīs,³ precēs⁷ -que⁵ nostrās,⁸

19 ūrāmus,⁶ cavē⁹ dēspuās,¹⁰ ocellē,¹¹

20 nē¹² poenās¹⁵ Nemesis¹³ reposcat¹⁴ ā¹⁶ tē.¹⁷

21 est¹⁸ vemēns¹⁹ dea.²⁰ laedere²² hanc²¹ cavētō.²³

Vocabulary

18 **nunc** (adv.) now

audāx, -ācis bold, daring

caveō, cavēre to beware

precēs, precum (f.pl.) prayers

19 **ūrō, ūrāre** to beg

dēspuō, -ere to spit upon, reject

ocellus, -ī (m.) darling!

20 **nē** (conj.) lest

poena, -ae (f.) punishment

Nemesis, -is (f.) Nemesis

reposcō, -ere to demand back

21 **vemēns, -entis** fierce

laedō, laedere to harm

Style Notes: Lines 18-21

14. Mock Warning — audāx cavē sīs

Line 18

nunc audāx cavē sīs...



15. Triple cavē

Lines 18, 19, 21

cavē sīs... cavē dēspuās... cavētō



16. Vivid Verb — dēspuās

Line 19

cavē dēspuās, ocelle



17. Affectionate Vocative — ocelle

Line 19

...dēspuās, ocelle



18. Divine Warning — Nemesis

Lines 20-21

nē poenās Nemesis reposcat... est vemēns dea



19. Future Imperative — cavētō

Line 21

laedere hanc cavētō

