

Juvenal, Satire 3

Though he was one of Rome's greatest writers, it is surprising how little is known about Juvenal's life. His full name was probably Decimus Iunius Iuvenalis. He was born at Aquinum, near Monte Cassino, probably in the reign of Nero (54-68 CE), but the exact date of either his birth or death is uncertain. Other than a few scattered references in Martial (ca. 45-104 CE), there is little evidence Juvenal was even well-known among his fellow Romans during his lifetime.

Juvenal's first nine satires are the most powerful and least agreeable—establishing him as probably the most “politically incorrect” Roman poet if not also the most caustic. Fueled by the irrational or irresponsible behavior of foreigners, women, homosexuals and cruel and decadent rulers, Juvenal's rage lashes out against greed, extravagance, vanity, stupidity, bad manners, urban blight and poetry recitals in August. It seems obvious why the poet must write satire, as he says in his own words: *difficile est saturam non scribere* (“it is difficult to not write satire”).

Our excerpt is taken from Juvenal's Third Satire which is a rejection of city life in favor of bucolic simplicity. According to one modern critic, it is in this satire that his particular gift of vivid painting finds its best and bitterest observations about life in Rome.

Satire 3. 41-45

Quid Romae faciam? mentiri nescio; librum,
What will I do at Rome? I am unable to lie; if a book

si malus est, nequeo laudare et poscere; motūs
is bad, I am unable to praise and request (it); I don't know

astrorum ignoro; funus promittere patris
the movements of the stars; neither am I willing

nec volo nec possum; ranarum viscera numquam
nor am I able to promise the funeral of a father; I have never examined

inspexi; . . .
the guts of frogs; . . .

45

[Continued on the next page]

Satire 3. 74-80

. . . ede quid illum
. . . Proclaim what you think

esse putes. Quemvis hominem secum attulit ad nos:
that man is. He has brought to us along with himself any man at all:

75

grammaticus, rhetor, geometres, pictor, aliptes,
grammar teacher, orator, architect, painter, personal trainer,

augur, schoenobates, medicus, magus — omnia novit
fortune-teller, tightrope walker, doctor, magician — the hungry little

Graeculus esuriens: in caelum, iusseris, ibit.
Greek knows all things: (if) you give the order, he will go into heaven.

In summa non Maurus erat neque Sarmata nec Thrax
In sum, it was not a Moroccan nor a Sarmatian nor a Thracian

qui sumpsit pinnas, mediis sed natus Athenis.
who put on wings, but a man born in the middle of Athens.

80

Satire 3.100-103

natio comoeda est. rides, maiore cachinno
The (whole) nation is a comedienne. (If) you laugh, he is rocked

100

concutitur; flet, si lacrimas conspexit amici,
by bigger guffaw; he bewails, if he has beheld the tears of a friend,

nec dolet; igniculum brumae si tempore poscas,
but does not suffer pain; if you should ask for a little fire at the time of winter

accipit endromidem; si dixeris “aestuo,” sudat.
he seizes a warm-up suit; if you say, “I am hot,” he sweats.

Juvenal, Satire 3: Worksheet

a. The questions below pertain to the forms underlined in the passage

b. When you're asked to change a word from one form to another, change only **that** form of the word. For instance, if you're asked to change *habet* to the passive voice, make *habet* passive but leave it in the 3rd person singular, present indicative.

1. Make **faciam** imperfect. _____
2. Change **nescio** to future passive third person plural. _____
3. Change **est** to a future active infinitive (masc.). _____
4. What mood is **poscere** and why? _____
5. Make **motūs** genitive. _____
6. Make **funus** plural. _____
7. Change **possum** to imperfect subjunctive. _____
8. What mood is **ede** and why? _____
9. What mood is **esse** and why? _____
10. What case is **se** and why? _____
11. Change **esuriens** to future passive. _____
12. Change **iusseris** to present passive subjunctive. _____
13. Change **qui** to neuter accusative plural. _____
14. Change **natio comoeda** to dative plural. _____
15. Make **maiore** superlative. _____
16. Make **maiore** a positive adverb. _____

[Continued on the next page]

17. What case is **cachinno** and why? _____
18. Change **concutitur** to perfect active first person plural. _____
19. Change **flet** to pluperfect passive (masc., nom., sing.) _____
20. What tense and mood is **conspexit**? _____
21. Make **amici** plural. _____
22. Change **dolet** to passive second person plural. _____
23. What case is **tempore** and why? _____
24. Make **endromidem** dative. _____
25. Change **sudat** to a perfect active infinitive. _____

Juvenal: Satire 3: Notes and Vocabulary

Line Note/ Vocabulary

Satire 3.41-45

41. **mentiri:** *mentior, -iri, mentitus sum*: not tell the truth, lie
42. **nequeo:** *nequeo, -ire, -ivi, -itum*: be unable
poscere: *posco, -ere, poposci*: request, ask for
motus: *motus, -s, m.*: movement
43. **astrorum:** *astrum, -i, n.*: star
ignoro: *ignosco, -noscere, -novi, -notum*: not know
funus: *funus, -eris, n.*: funeral
promittere: *promitto, -mittere, -misi, -missum*: promise
44. **ranarum:** *rana, -ae, f.*: frog
viscera: *viscus, -eris, m.*: the internal organs; here, guts
45. **inspexi:** *inspicio, -spicere, -spexi, -spectum*: examine

Satire 3.74-80

74. **ede:** *edo, edere, edidi, editum*: proclaim
75. **quemvis:** *quivis, quaevis, quodvis*: any at all
attulit: *adfero, adferre, attuli, adlatum*: bring
76. **grammaticus:** *grammaticus, -i, m.*: grammarian
rhetor: *rhetor, -oris, m.*: orator
geometres: *geometres, -ae, m.* (Greek form): architect
pictor: *pictor, -oris, m.*: painter
aliptes: *aliptes, -ae, m.*: person who put oil on wrestlers; here, personal trainer
77. **augur:** *augur, -uris, m/f.*: interpreter of auspices; here, fortune-teller
schoenobates: *schoenobates, -ae, m.* (Greek form): tightrope walker
medicus: *medicus, -i, m.*: doctor
magus: *magus, -i, m.*: magician

[Continued on the next page]

Line Note/ Vocabulary

78. **Graeculus:** *Graeculus*, -a, -um: a little Greek (diminutive of *Graecus*); here, the diminutive has a contemptuous sense
esuriens: *esurio*, -ire: be hungry
iusseris: future perfect for future, in a future more vivid condition
ibit: *eo*, *ire*, *ivi*, *itum*: go (future third person singular)
79. **in summa:** *summa*, -ae, f.: the most important point; here, in sum
Maurus: *Maurus*, -a, -um: Moroccan; Mauritania was a Roman province in North Africa
Sarmata: *Sarmata*, -ae, m.: a Sarmatian; the Sarmatians lived in southern Russia
Thrax: *Thrax*, -acis, m.: a Thracian; Thrace is in northern Greece
80. **sumpsit:** *sumo*, -ere, *sumpsi*, *sumptum*: put on
pinna: *pinna*, -ae, f.: feather; in plural, wing
Athenis: *Athenae*, -arum, f.: Athens; here, locative case showing place where; Juvenal is alluding to Daedalus, the figure from Greek myth who flew from Crete to Italy on wings made of wax and feathers

Satire 3.100-103

100. **natio:** *natio*, -onis, f.: nation, i.e. Greece
comoeda: *comoedus*, -a, -um: comic; here, a feminine substantive meaning “comedienne”
cachinno: *cachinnus*, -i, m.: loud laughter, guffaw
101. **concutitur:** *concutio*, -cutere, -cussi, -cussum: shake violently, rock
flet: *fleo*, *flere*, *flevi*, *fletum*: bewail
lacrimas: *lacrima*, -ae, f.: a tear
conspexit: *conspicio*, -spicere, -spexi, -spectum: behold
102. **dolet:** *doleo*, -ere, *dolui*, *doliturus*: suffer pain
igniculum: *igniculus*, -i, m.: a little fire (diminutive of *ignis*)
brumae: *bruma*, -ae, f.: winter
103. **endromidem:** *endromis*, -idis, f.: a rough cloak worn by athletes after exercises to keep warm; here, a warm-up suit
dixeris: see *iusseris*, 78
aestuo: *aestuo* (1): be hot
sudat: *sudo* (1): sweat