



Study Questions

Question 1: Lines 267 vv. What do you know of the cult of the Luperci? Does their role in contemporary Rome influence Ovid's discussion of their origins at this point?

Question 2: Line 272. Why is the adjective *plurimus* an interesting choice here to describe Pan?

Question 3: • Lines 281-2 *flamen Dialis*. What is the significance of this religious figure in Rome? How might the contemporary role of this figure affect our interpretation of these lines?

Question 4: Lines 289-300. How does Ovid present the Arcadians as enjoying an idyllic lifestyle? Make three points and justify your argument with reference to the style of the Latin.

Question 5: Line 304 *antiqui fabula plena ioci*. How does this introductory remark from Ovid colour our impression of the ensuing story?

Question 6: Lines 320-324. How does Ovid inject humour into this scene of Hercules dressing in Omphale's outfit? Make three points and justify your argument with reference to the style of the Latin.

Question 7: Lines 331 vv. What is your impression of Faunus in this vignette? Explain your opinion with close reference to the text.



Question 8: Lines 685-690. How does Ovid immediately present Tarquinius Superbus as a villain to Roman eyes? Make three points and justify your argument with reference to the Latin.

Question 9: Lines 703-708. Explain how Ovid juxtaposes the setting for Tarquin's message to Sextus with the content of that message.

Question 10: Lines 739-743: Explain the contrast that Ovid makes in his presentation of the "royal daughter-in-law" and Lucretia herself.

Question 11: Lines 745-754. How does Ovid present the character of Lucretia through her opening direct speech?

Question 12: Lines 761-766. How does Ovid present the character of Sextus through his description of his infatuation with Lucretia?

Question 13: Line 783. What are we to make of Sextus' likening his intentions towards Lucretia with his taking of Gabii?

Question 14: Lines 792-810. What are the most shocking and disturbing elements of the scene of Sextus invading Lucretia's bedroom? How do think Ovid wanted his readership to react when reading these lines?

Question 15: Lines 825-832. How psychologically believable do you find Lucretia to be in the moment in which she takes her own life?



Question 16: Lines 845-846. Why do you think that Ovid included this rather unbelievable observation?

General Questions

Question 1: How convincing do you find the stories of the Arcadians and Faunus as explanations for the rites of the Luperci?

Question 2: What are we to make of the treatment of women in Book 2 of the *Fasti*? Do you find Ovid to be an author sympathetic towards the plight of the women he discusses?

Question 3: How far does Ovid subvert the ‘traditional’ representation of Lucretia in his rendering of her story?

Question 4: To what extent do you believe that Ovid is being politically subversive in his rendering of this key story from Rome’s history?