

Ovid *Heroides*

Student Activities

Activity 1

Produce an updated version of one of these poems. Either produce a free translation making the situation more modern – using text messaging, social media, or email for instance – or else produce what you think Ovid would have chosen to write if he were writing in 2016, with your own choice of heroines.

Ted Hughes produced a wonderful modern version of parts of the *Metamorphoses* in his prize-winning book *Tales from Ovid* (Faber, 1997), which may give you some ideas.

Activity 2

Rewrite these poems as ‘talking head’ monologues for television or radio. What special effects would be needed to make the poem come alive?

Activity 3

Recreate a text by Jason answering poem 6 and a text by Theseus answering Ariadne in poem 10.

Activity 4

Compare and contrast the treatment of Ariadne in *Heroides* 10 and Catullus poem 64: to what extent does Ovid change Catullus’ depiction of her personality and her plight? There is a text (with facing translation and commentary) of Catullus 64 in *Catullus: Poems 61-68*, edited by John Godwin (Warminster: Aris & Phillips Ltd, 1996) and a text is available online at:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0003%3Apoem%3D64>

Further reading on this topic includes:

Keramida, D. (2010) 'Heroides 10 and *Ars Amatoria* 1.527-64: Ariadne crossing the boundaries between texts', *Rosetta* 8.5: 47-63.

(http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue8supp/Keramida_ariadne.pdf)

Bramble, J.C. 'Structure and Ambiguity in Catullus LXIV', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society* 16 (1970): 22-41

Curran, Leo. 'Catullus 64 and the Heroic Age', *Yale Classical Studies* 21 (1969): 171-192.

Gaisser, Julia Haig. 'Threads in the Labyrinth: Competing Views and Voices in Catullus 64.' *American Journal of Philology* 116.4 (1995): 579-616.

Gardner, Hunter. 'Ariadne's Lament: The Semiotic Impulse of Catullus 64.' *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 137 (2007): 147-179.

Warden, John. 'Catullus 64: Structure and Meaning.' *Classical Journal* 93.4 (1998): 397-415.

Activity 5

Examine the theme of the betrayed and deserted woman through other literature. You might compare Ovid's treatment of Hypsipyle and Ariadne in the *Heroides* with (for instance):

Medea in Euripides' *Medea*

Deianeira in Sophocles' *Trachiniae*

Dido in Virgil's *Aeneid* 4 and Ovid *Heroides* 7

Gretchen in Goethe's *Faust*

Fay Weldon *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*

Activity 6

Compare Ovid's use of the female lover as a mouthpiece with the way in which other elegists express their (mostly male) views of love: read Propertius, Tibullus, Catullus, Ovid Amores and see also:

Lyne, R.O.A.M. *The Latin Love Poets* (Oxford, 1980)

McCoskey, D. and Torlone, Z.M.: *Latin Love Poetry* (IB Tauris, 2013)

Arkins, B: 'A Reading of Latin Love Poetry' *Classics Ireland* Vol. 13 (2006), pp. 1-22
(available online)