

**Ovid *Heroides***

Answer Sheet: Literary Techniques in Action

Read these passages from *Heroides* VI and X and identify the literary techniques being used.

Passage 1

o ego si possem timide credentibus ista
'ipse mihi scripsit' dicere, quanta forem!

6.15-16

Technique: *Hiatus of o ego: exclamation (quanta forem!) is ironic coming from a queen*

Passage 2

terrigenas populos civili Marte peremptos
inplesse aetatis fata diurna suae.

6.35-6

Technique: *Compound adjective terrigenas and use of metonymy ('civil Mars' for 'civil war')*

Passage 3

vota ego persolvam? votis Medea fruatur?

6.75

Technique: *Anaphora of vota...votis in two rhetorical questions. Balanced structure of the two questions with pattern of: vota/is – name/pronoun – verb*

Passage 4

Medeam timui: plus est Medea noverca;
Medeae faciunt ad scelus omne manus.

6.127-8

Technique: *Tricolon crescendo (Medeam...Medea...Medeae).*



Passage 5

cum mare, cum terras consumpserit, aera temptet;
erret inops, exspes, caede cruenta sua.

6.161-2

Technique: *Anaphora of cum..cum: balanced list of sea, land and sky: asyndeton of three adjectival words (inops, exspes, cruenta).*

Passage 6

protinus adductis sonuerunt pectora palmis

10.15

Technique: *Alliteration of p expressive of the breast-beating sound.*

Passage 7

alta puellares tardat harena pedes.

10.20

Technique: *Golden line of adjective A – adjective B – verb – noun A – noun B*

Passage 8

temperet ut ventos Aeolus, exul ero

10.66

Technique: *Assonance of 'e' sounds.*



Passage 9

vivimus, et non sum, Theseu, tua, si modo vivit
femina periuri fraude sepulta viri.

10.75-6

Technique: *Enjambement of the sentence from line 75-6.*

Passage 10

me quoque narrato sola tellure relictam:

10.129

Technique: *Hypallage as the epithet sola 'lonely' is transferred from the women to the land (tellure)*