



Study Questions

Question 1

To what extent do you think that these two poems succeed in showing us the working of the minds of women in love?

Question 2

‘Ovid’s problem is that he never knows when to stop.’ Do you think that either of these poems would be improved by being shorter? If so, what would you cut out?

Question 3

Is it fair to say that these poems use the emotional turmoil of women merely as a means of displaying the poet’s ability to write speeches?

Question 4

How successfully does Ovid manage to keep the reader’s attention throughout these poems?

Question 5

‘Ovid is the master of the elegiac couplet’. To what extent do you agree that these poems show his ability to use the metrical form to enhance the meaning and the power of the poetry?

Question 6

What is gained and what is lost by Ovid’s use of mythological heroines rather than ‘real-life’ heroines as the speakers of these poems?

Question 7

‘These are sad poems, but there are still touches of humour’. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 8

To what extent do the language and style of these poems show Ovid’s training as a public speaker?

Question 9

To what extent does Ovid succeed in creating believable characters out of Hypsipyle and Ariadne?

Question 10

How suitable would either of these poems be as radio drama?