



## Propertius, Tibullus and Ovid: A Selection of Love Poetry

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### Study Questions

#### Question 1

In Propertius 1.1.27, in what ways can you interpret the metonyms *ferrum* and *ignes*? What implications do these interpretations have for our understanding of what Propertius is talking about here?

#### Question 2

List the details we are given about Propertius's mistress in 1.1 and describe the kind of relationship that Propertius has with her. What aspects of the poem contribute to building a picture of the relationship?

#### Question 3

List the religious details Tibullus uses in 1.1 and write notes on the effects of each. Think about how they contribute to the mood and tone of his poem.

#### Question 4

What impression of Tibullus's relationship with Delia do you get from Tibullus 1.1? What features of the poem contribute to it? What kind of a mistress is she?

#### Question 5

Track the occurrence of the same or similar words and phrases in Ovid *Amores* 1.1 and Propertius 1.1. What parallels do you find? How does the comparison with Propertius 1.1 enrich your understanding of *Amores* 1.1?

#### Question 6

Make a list of instances of irony in Ovid *Amores* 2.5. On whose account is the irony in each case? What effects does the irony have on your understanding of the events described, or on sympathising with the different characters (the poet-lover, the mistress, the other man, any



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other characters)?

### **Question 7**

Would you consider Ovid a good teacher of love given what happens in *Amores* 2.5?