

## CHAPTER XVII: CARMEN ET ERROR

DATE	AD 9
TOP STORY	Military disaster in Germany!
FEATURE	Interview with the poet Ovid, recently exiled

### PROLOGUS

Headlining this episode of *Forum Romanum* is the shocking report of a terrible military disaster in Germany (AD 9). The Roman general Varus was treacherously led into an ambush in the forests of Germany and three legions—about twenty thousand men—were annihilated. This catastrophe led the emperor Augustus to abandon plans for Roman expansion into Germany.

The focus of this episode, however, is the poet Ovid. In the year before the German disaster, Augustus, fed up with the perceived immorality of Ovid's verse, exiled the poet to the distant regions of the Black Sea. In the *Persona notanda* segment, Iulia Pauli interviews a dejected Ovid, formerly the darling of Rome's "jet set," who speaks from his new home in Tomis. A flat, treeless, remote outpost of the empire, Tomis was located in modern-day Romania. Here Ovid composed his *Tristia* (from Latin *tristis*), a collection of poems in which he laments his fate and begs the emperor for a reprieve.

For Ovid, the punishment does not match his crime, which he describes merely as *carmen et error*. The *carmen* is generally taken to be his poem *Ars amatoria*, a handbook on the art of seduction. The substance of the *error* is less certain. It is known, however, that in the year of Ovid's banishment, Augustus also exiled his granddaughter Julia amid accusations of adultery. Perhaps Ovid was somehow involved.

Here are some questions to help you know what to look for:

1. What happened to Varus, the leader of the Roman army ambushed in Germany?
2. How is Ovid taking his exile? What is his mood like?
3. How does Ovid describe the land of his exile, Tomis on the Black Sea?
4. What strange signs does the weatherman Serenus report in the *Tempestas hodierna* segment?
5. What is sportscaster Scirtus Agitator's opinion of Ovid's poetry?

VERSUS

**Nota bene:** People, places, and things explained in the *Commentarium* section below are in boldface. Terms and difficult vocabulary defined in the *Glossarium* section below are underlined.

*SALUTATIO*

FAVONIUS

Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et hoc est *Forum Romanum*! Quid novi est hodie? Brevi tempore videbimus. At prius, ecce dictum hodiernum!

*DICTUM HODIERNUM*

LECTOR

Hoc est dictum hodiernum: **Rident stolidi verba Latina.**

*QUID NOVI?*

FAVONIUS

Verba notanda. Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo modo recepimus: **clades in Germania!** Hodie rumor horribilis et vix credibilis totum per forum pervolitabat exercitum Romanum in Germania conlocatum nefarias per insidias superatum esse. Extra **Curiam** ipsam ex quodam de senatoribus auditum est tres legiones—circa viginti milia militum—omnino extinctas esse. Etiam fertur Quinctilium Varum, harum legionum ducem, necatum esse. Facta ipsa cladis huius adhuc non tam clara sunt. His de rebus igitur plura vobis nuntiabimus cum ea pro certo habebimus. Nunc ad alias res tractandas, hic est Iulia Pauli.

*PERSONA NOTANDA*

IULIA

Gratias, Favoni. His temporibus apud nos Romanos perpauci poetica laude tam florent quam Publius Ovidius Naso, cuius carmina de amore et de fabulis heroicis formisque mutatis (*Metamorphoses* inscripta), bene nota sunt. Hic poeta, ut fortasse omnes vestrum adhuc in memoria tenetis, anno priore in exsilium missus est. Ovidio igitur iter longissimum faciendum erat ad terras remotissimas in parte orientali Maris Nostri. Poeta ipse nobiscum nunc in colloquium venit. Salvus sis, Ovidi Naso! Usque vales?

OVID

Salva sis, Iulia. Valeo, quantum possum.

IULIA

Ubinam gentium ergo es tu nunc?

OVID

Tomis, prope **Pontum Euxinum**.

IULIA

Tomisne? Quale oppidum est? Et quales sunt Tomitani? Nonne barbari sunt?

OVID

Certe huic oppido nil urbanitatis est. Sed tamen, ut Tomitanis videtur, barbarus hic ego sum, quia non intelligor ullis et rident stolidi verba Latina.

**IULIA**

Vae tibi! Sed, ut ais tute ipse in scriptis, “**perfer et obdura; dolor hic tibi proderit olim.**”

**OVID**

Parce perdere mea dicta in me, Iulia, nam habitare in his locis Roma remotissimis est onus vix ferendum!

**IULIA**

At vero, nonne tu etiam in carminibus scripsisti, “**leve fit quod bene fertur onus**”?

**OVID**

En ego confiteor! Scripsi. Sed aliud est carmen, alia vitast, nam nulla vox est quae miseriam tristitiamque meam possit comprehendere. Cum fata tam mala me rapiunt—ignosce mihi — sollicitor putare nullos esse deos!

**IULIA**

Noli istaec dicere; nefas enim est! Sane ista loca sunt valde dissimilia urbi Romanae, sed vix credibile est Tomos oppidum tam atrox esse.

**OVID**

Tu ipsa ergo Tomos veni! **Haec sunt loca inculta**, aspera, planissima, arboribus vacua— persaepe etiam nobis sustinendi sunt impetus barbarorum, in quos ego ipse arma sumpsi! At vero, ut plane vides, amator sum, non pugnator!

**IULIA**

Plane video. At tamen, quomodo nunc tu dies noctesque consumere soles?

**OVID**

Scribere conor sed vita mea nunc nil nisi tristitia est. Tunc eram poeta Urbi et orbi dilectissimus, nunc ipse ego exsul mentisque domusque sum. Donec eram felix, multos amicos numerabam; quia tempora nunc nubila sunt, solus sum. Cur semper ego ab urbe ipsa Roma absim? Dignus hac iniuria fui?

**IULIA**

Sed tu narra mihi, si grave non est, causas exsilii tui. Constat enim Caesarem Augustum carmen tuum de arte amatoria graviter tulisse. Etiam nonnulli dicunt te in flagrante delicto quodam apprehensum esse. Cui delicto nomen **Iuliae, neptis Caesaris Augusti** ipsius, additum est.

**OVID**

Unde hoc scis? Nugas agis atque falso dicis. Falso, aio. Non mea opera neque pol culpa evenit ut Iulia, Augusti neptis, in exsilium mitteretur.

**IULIA**

Nil pro certo habeo, sed ita est rumor apud vulgus, nam dicunt causas exsilii tui esse et carmen et errorem.

**OVID**

Vera dicam: nil nimium studebam Caesari Augusto displicere. Sane sententia nostri Augusti maximi momenti mihi nobisque omnibus est. At vero, carmen meum de arte amatoria scribere iussit Amor, saevus puer ille. Haud scio quare hic sim. Credibile non est quam cupidus sim redeundi domum. Hoc autem est in votis.

**IULIA**

Tune ergo nescis quare tam longe Roma missus sis?

**OVID**

Non mentior: peream si sciam; sed erratum quod feci, quidquid id erat, ignorans feci. Postea quam mihi renuntiatum est de exilio meo...quid facerem haud scivi. Urbs Roma mihi sola placebat. Nunc ego, **Pieridum vates**, adsum hic in terra paene incognita. Romam, urbem mihi carissimam, redire cupio. Num nimum volo?

**IULIA**

Quidquid id erat, pergraviter tulit Augustus qui te misit usque ad extremas partes Maris Nostri. At tamen, censeo, Ovidi, tempus nostrum paene iam fugisse. Ecquid aliud cupis dicere?

**OVID**

Quid dicam aliud nescio. At vero, me miserum, levior poena fiat! Iusta precor! Nil opus erat exilio—veniam rogo! Si dis et Augusto placebit mox Romae ero. Nihil mihi optatius cadere posse. Utinam ibidem adessem...

**IULIA**

Me paenitet, Ovidi miser, sed nil temporis relictum est nobis. Gratias igitur tibi ago. Fac ut tuam valetudinem cures.

**OVID**

Vale, Iulia, et salutem multam dicito omnibus Romae, ne mei obliviscantur!

**IULIA**

Ita faciam. Totum est, Favoni. Rursus ad te!

**FAVONIUS**

Tempus est audire de tempestate hodierna. Itaque, ecce Aulus Serenus!

*TEMPESTAS HODIERNA*

**SERENUS**

Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quatenus sit tempesta hodie. Romae, caelum est aliquantulum nubilosum etiam paullulum frigidum est hodie. Interdium tonitrus auditur fulgoresque crebri videntur atque in septentrionali parte Italiae fit imber grandine mixtus. In parte meridiana Italiae ferunt **statuas signaque lacrimare et Capuae vitellum bicipitem natum** esse. Qualia omina pessima! Fortasse illi rumores de clade horribili in Germania non sine causa totam per urbem volitant! Etiam sunt auspicia pessima ad tempestatem crastinam. Quin videamus quatenus sit tempesta alibi circum Mare Nostrum. Multis in partibus varium est caelum hodie: alias Iuppiter pluit, alias Apollo currum manifesto agit. In Britannia, vix credibile, sol lucet. In Gallia et nefaria Germania pluit. Nec mirum. In Graecia et Asia etiam paulum pluit. Pluit quoque hic Tomis apud Pontem Euxinum ubi miserrimus Ovidius dies noctesque tristissimas agit. Utinam Ovidius carmina tam lasciva non scripsisset. Melius si ipsa verba sua observasset: “**In medio tutissimus ibis.**” At tamen, iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

**FAVONIUS**

Multas gratias, Serene. Et nunc, ut de ludis audiamus, praesto est Scirtus Agitator!

*DE LUDIS***SCIRTUS**

Avete omnes! Eamus ad ludos! Sed prius, de Ovidio Nasone haec pauca dicere volo. Carmina eius audiui et nostro Caesari Augusto admodum adsentio: istaec carmina de amore et aliis rebus magno detrimento populo Romano morique maiorum esse. Nempe circus est locus ad ludos et aurigas fortissimos spectandos non ad puellas captandas! Tametsi hae puellae, ut ait ille Ovidius, “**Spectatum veniunt, veniunt spectentur ut ipsae.**” Ut mihi videtur, merito ac iure in exilium ille “doctus vates” missus est, nam haec pretia ignaviae sunt. Sed nil ad nos pertinet. His dictis, nunc ad ludos eundumst. Ludi circenses editi sunt ab Imperatore Caesare Augusto et consensu omnium optimi erant. In circo, **factio Albata** septem cursus vicit, factio Prasina octo, factio Russata sex, et Veneta tres cursus vicit. Etiam in circo erat **venatio** magnifica in qua plurimae bestiae caesae sunt. Accidit autem aliquid omnis mali quando aper ferocissimus (in silvis Germanicis captus, ut aiunt) priusquam necatus unum e venatoribus dentibus transfixit—venator ille autem brevi tempore multo in sanguine vita discessit, quo facto nonnulli spectatores valde conturbati sunt. Sed tamen, ut dicitur in **ludis scaenicis**, acta est fabula! Atque interea, spectator care, vive valeque et otiosus esto!

*VALEDICTIO***FAVONIUS**

Gratias, Scirte. Ludis amotis, seria quaeramus. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Hoc ipso tempore rumor horribilis et vix credibilis totam per Urbem volitat tres legiones—circa viginti milia militum—per insidias in Germania omnino extinctas esse. Huius cladis autem facta ipsa adhuc non tam clara et bene nota sunt. Cum plura sciamus, statim vos certiores faciemus. Sic factumst hodie. Gratias plurimas Ovidio poetae agere volumus. Totum est ad hanc editionem *Fori Romani*. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant. Valet omnes!



Scene from *Carmen et Error*

## COMMENTARIUM

**clades in Germania.** At this battle (“Teutoburger Wald”) in AD 9, the Roman general Quinctilius Varus and his army were led into an ambush by the Arminius, a German patriot who held Roman citizenship.

**Curiam.** The Curia was the Roman senate house in the forum.

**factio Albata, Prasina, Russata, Veneta.** A *factio* is a chariot racing team or party. These parties were known by their colors (White, Green, Red, and Blue)

**Haec sunt loca inculta.** In his *Epistulae ex Ponto* and *Tristia*, both written in exile, Ovid complains about the barrenness—both physical and social—of Tomis.

**In medio tutissimus ibis.** A line from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, usually translated “The middle road is the safest.”

**Iuliae, neptis Caesaris Augusti.** Like Julia, daughter of Augustus, this Julia, Augustus’ granddaughter, was exiled for adultery. Since her exile occurred in the same year as Ovid’s (AD 8), some have speculated that the two punishments were linked to the same crime.

**Leve fit quod bene fertur onus.** Another line from Ovid, it means something like “A burden, if handled well, becomes light.”

**ludis scaenicis.** *Ludi scaenici* were various types of dramatic performances.

**Perfer et obdura; dolor hic tibi proderit olim.** A line from Ovid’s writings, it means something like, “Hang in there; this trouble will one day be a benefit to you.”

**Pieridum vates.** The Pierides are the Muses. As a term for “poet,” the word *vates* has sacred connotations and can also be translated “prophet” or “seer.”

**Pontum Euxinum.** *Pontus Euxinus* was the name the ancient Romans used for the Black Sea.

**Rident stolidi verba Latina.** A “quotable quote,” usually translated “Fools laugh at the Latin language.” Ovid is talking about the non-Latin-speaking Getae, the inhabitants of the area around Tomis, who laugh at Ovid’s strange-sounding Latin.

**Spectatum veniunt, veniunt spectentur ut ipsae.** Ovid’s words (“They come to watch, they come to be watched themselves”) describe women who come to public games in order to “be seen.” Ovid is here giving young men advice on the best place to meet girls in Rome.

**statuas signaque lacrimare et...vitellum bicipitem natum.** Strange omens (*omina*), like weeping statues or the birth of strange monsters, often seemed to accompany or foreshadow terrible events (such as the destruction of a Roman army).

**venatio.** A *venatio* was a wild beast hunt. Animals from all over the empire were brought to Rome to be hunted in the arena as a form of public entertainment.

## GLOSSARIUM

ad alias res tractandas – to deal with other matters	nefarias per insidias – through treacherous ambush
adhuc – to this point	Nempe – indeed
admodum – completely	Nihil optatius – nothing more hoped for
aliquantulum – a little bit	nil urbanitatis – no sophistication
aliquid ominis mali – an evil omen of sorts	nimum – too much
aper – boar	Non mentior – I'm not lying
At prius – But before (that)	nubilosum - cloudy
aurigas – charioteers	Nugas agis – You're talking nonsense
clades – military catastrophe	orientali – eastern
Constat – it is commonly known	Parce perdere – Quit wasting
consumere soles – you usually spend	paullulum – a little bit
delicto – crime	perpauci – very few
dentibus – with its tusks	Pieridum vates – sacred poet of the Muses
Ecquid aliud – anything else	pol – by gosh
En ego confiteor! – OK, I confess!	quantum – as much as
erratum – the mistake	Quin videamus – Why don't we see...
fertur – it is reported	septentrionali – northern
formisque mutatis – changed shapes	sollicitor putare – I'm tempted to think
fulgores crebri – frequent lightning	stolidi – foolish, stolid
graviter tulisse – did not take kindly to	Tametsi – even if
imber grandine mixtus – rain mixed with hail	tonitrus – thunder
in votis – in my prayers	Ubinam gentium – Where in the world
Interdiu – during the day	unum e venatoribus – one of the hunters
lusta precor! – I ask for justice	ut ais tute ipse – as you yourself say
lasciva – lewd, lascivious	ut aiunt – so they say
maximi momenti – very important	Vae tibi! – Poor you!
meridiana – southern	veniam – pardon, forgiveness
modo modo – just now	vitellum bicipitem – a two-headed calf
ne mei obliviscantur – so they don't forget me	vix credibilis – scarcely believable

## GRAMMATICA

As a grammarian, you should know a grammatical form when you see it. But as a translator, use context as your guide and remember that a good translation must sound good in English.

## 1. Partitive genitive

Grammarians came up with the term “*partitive genitive*” to capture this use of the genitive case to show a part of something. The genitive is basically the “*of case*,” meaning we can often translate Latin genitives into English with the preposition *of*. But dealing with partitive genitive requires use of the Translator’s Good Judgment principle—meaning, choose a translation that sounds good and makes sense rather than some clunky-sounding literal attempt to render the expression in English. In the examples below, we present the Translator’s Good Judgment translation followed in parentheses by the grammarians clunky “what’s-the-Latin-doing” rendering.

Example in context	Translation
1. Quid novi est?	1. What’s new? (What <i>of</i> a new thing is there?)
2. viginti milia militum	2. twenty thousand soldiers (twenty thousand of soldiers)
3. Ubinam gentium es tu?	3. Where in the world are you? (Where of nations are you?)
4. nil urbanitatis	4. no sophistication (nothing of sophistication)

## 2. Prepositions

Latin prepositional phrases do not necessarily follow the word order of English prepositional phrases, where the words always follow the preposition. In fact, when there is a modifier (an adjective) in the prepositional phrase, a common Latin word order is *adjective > preposition > noun* as in *magna cum laude*. If it helps you translate, remember the clever saying, “Look both ways before crossing a preposition,” because one of the words in the preposition phrase may be found *before* the preposition.

Example in context	Translation
1. totum per forum	1. through the whole forum
2. nefarias per insidias	2. through the nefarious plots
3. his de rebus	3. about these matters
4. multis in partibus	4. In many parts (areas)

## 3. Passive voice

As in English, in Latin the passive voice is used when the object of the verb’s action becomes the subject of the clause or sentence. For example, instead of *Caesar eats a peach* it becomes *a peach is eaten by Caesar*. Passive verb forms, as you know, have their own set of endings.

Example in context	Translation
1. fertur	1. <u>it is said</u> ; <u>it is carried</u>
2. in exilium missus est	2. <u>(he) was sent</u> into exile
3. non intellegor	3. <u>I am</u> not <u>understood</u>
4. evenit...ut Iulia mitterentur	4. it happened...that Iulia <u>was sent</u>
5. nescis...quare missus sis...?	5. you don’t know...why <u>you were sent</u> ...?



## LATINE LOQUAMVR

### Useful expressions

Here are some examples of conversational Latin used in this show. Try out some of these expressions in your own Latin conversations.

Acta est fabula – That’s the story!	peream si sciam – darned if I know
consensu omnium – in the opinion of everyone	pluit – it’s raining
Constat – It’s well known that...; Agreed.	pretia ignaviae – “the wages of sin”
di vobis faveant – may the gods favor you	pro certo habere – to know for certain
Ecce – Here’s...; Behold!	Quid novi est? – What’s new?
ecquid aliud – anything else	quidquid id erat – whatever it was
En ego confiteor! – OK, I confess	Quin videamus – Why don’t we see...
Gratias tibi ago – Thank you	salutem dicito – say hello (to)
Hoc est in votis. – This is my fondest wish.	Salvus sis = Salve!
iam satis est – enough already	Sed tamen – But anyhow
ignosce mihi – excuse me	si non grave est – if it’s not too difficult
in flagrante delicto – caught in the act	Sic factumst. – That’s the way it happened.
Ita faciam. – I’ll do that.	sol lucet – the sun is shining
maximi momenti – very important	Ubinam gentium – Where in the world
me miserum – poor me	Unde hoc scis? – How do you know this?
Me paenitet – I’m sorry	Usque vales – Are you doing OK?
Multas gratias. – Thanks a lot.	ut aiunt – so they say
Nec mirum – And no wonder.	Ut mihi videtur – In my opinion
nil ad nos pertinet – that has nothing to do with us	ut plane vides – as you can plainly see
Nugas agis. – You’re talking nonsense.	Vae tibi! – Poor you!
Num nimium volo? – Am I asking too much?	vive valeque – “live long and prosper”
otiosus esto! – Take it easy!	vix credibilis – hard to believe

### RECITATIO

Practice reading aloud—with your teacher or in pairs—these excerpts from the show. After you practice reading aloud, sum up in a few words what the excerpt is about.

1. Certe huic oppido nil urbanitatis est. Sed tamen, ut Tomitanis videtur, barbarus hic ego sum, quia non intellegor ullis et rident stolidi verba Latina.
3. Sed aliud est carmen, alia vitast, nam nulla vox est quae miseriam tristitiamque meam possit comprehendere. Cum fata tam mala me rapiunt—ignosce mihi —sollicitor putare nullos esse deos!
4. Haec sunt loca inculta, aspera, planissima, arboribus vacua—persaepe etiam nobis sustinendi sunt impetus barbarorum, in quos ego ipse arma sumpsi! At vero, ut plane vides, amator sum, non pugnator!
5. Scribere conor sed vita mea nunc nil nisi tristitia est. Tunc eram poeta Urbi et orbi dilectissimus, nunc ipse ego exsul mentisque domusque sum. Donec eram felix, multos amicos numerabam; quia tempora nunc nubila sunt, solus sum.

## EXERCITATIO

### I. PARI RESPONDERE (MATCHING)

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Marcus Favonius      | A. poema de formis mutatis                             |
| _____ 2. verba Latina         | B. locus incultus ubi Ovidius exsul erat               |
| _____ 3. clades               | C. infelix dux trium legionum deletarum                |
| _____ 4. Curia                | D. mare internum, id est, in mediis terris             |
| _____ 5. Quinctilius Varus    | E. is qui nuntios principales habet                    |
| _____ 6. Iulia Pauli          | F. Iratus ob carminibus eius Ovidium exsilio multavit. |
| _____ 7. <i>Metamorphoses</i> | G. locus senatus habendi                               |
| _____ 8. Mare Nostrum         | H. ea quae stolidi rident                              |
| _____ 9. Tomis                | I. intrepida nuntia qui cum Ovidio in colloquium venit |
| _____ 10. Augustus            | J. calamitas militaris                                 |

### II. VERUM AN FALSUM? (TRUE OR FALSE?)

1. Tres legiones, Quinctilio Varo duce, in Britannia extinctae sunt.
2. Carmina Ovidii Augusto placebant.
3. Ovidius Romam redire cupit.
4. Hodie in Gallia Germanique sol lucet usque.
5. Scirtus censet circum esse locum ad puellas captandas.
6. In venatione, aper ferocissimus unum e venatoribus dentibus transfixit.

### III. RESPONDE ANGLICE (ANSWER IN ENGLISH)

1. Quid accidit in Germania?
2. Ubinam gentium est Tomis, quo Ovidius in exilio iter fecit?
3. In qua parte Italiae est Capua?
4. Quanam est tempestas hodie in Gallia et Germania?
5. Quid significat Anglice "In medio tutissimus ibis"?
6. Quid mali ominis in venatione accidit?

### IV. TRANSFER ANGLICE (TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH)

1. Plura vobis nuntiabimus cum pro certo habebimus.
2. Carmina Ovidii bene nota sunt.
3. Ovidio iter longissimum faciendum erat ad terras remotissimas.
4. Ubinam gentium es tu?
5. Quale oppidum est?
6. Leve fit quod bene fertur onus.
7. Ut plane vides, amator sum, non pugnator.
8. Vita mea nunc nil nisi tristitia est.
9. Donec eram felix, multos amicos numerabam; quia tempora nunc nubila sunt, solus sum.
10. Unde hoc scis?

## DELIBERANDA

Although his specific reasons are unknown, Augustus evidently exiled Ovid because he believed Ovid's poetry to be harmful to Roman morality. Should the government play a role in protecting public morality? If not, why not? If so, how much?

**STVDIA AMPLIVS: Exile and ostracism (30 minutes)**

This episode tells of Ovid's exile by Augustus, Rome's first emperor. Apparently Augustus considered Ovid's love poetry to be harmful to public morals.

Exile means banishment from one's native country. In ancient Rome, public figures were either sent into exile or voluntarily went into exile to avoid further punishment or humiliation.

The ancient Athenians had an interesting version of exile called *ostracism*. In this case, a public figure whom the citizens of Athens considered dangerous or too powerful was temporarily banished from Athens, generally for ten years.

Ostracism takes its name from the Greek word *ostrakon*, which was a small piece of pottery or potsherd on which the name of a person voted to be ostracized would be written.

**Activity: Modern ostracism**

1. Take a show of hands vote in the class to decide whether someone from our nation should be ostracized—banished for ten years. Here you are first deciding (as the ancient Athenians did) whether an ostracism should be done in the first place. If the majority of students do wish to conduct an ostracism, proceed to the next steps.
2. Hand out a sticky note (Post-It™) to each student. These sticky notes will be the *ostraka* or potsherds on which students will write the name of the individual they think should be ostracized. (Or, if you feel ambitious, break up terra-cotta pots and let each student pencil in their vote on a real *ostrakon*.)
3. Give students a minute or two to think of a person, and then to write that person's name on the sticky note. After they have written a name they should put their sticky note *ostrakon* into a container the teacher provides—a bowl, jar, hat, or whatever.
4. When all student-citizens have turned in their *ostrakon*, the teacher then reads out each one as two volunteer students write the names and keep tallies on the board. Whoever gets the most votes is the person to be ostracized.

**Note:** If there is a tie or near-tie vote, you can re-vote, with students deciding who should be ostracized from just those names that are tied. If time permits, before the re-vote you can ask for individual students to come forward and give a two-minute speech or oration making the case why one of the top vote-getters should be ostracized.