

## CHAPTER IX: NOSTER TVLLIVS

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|-----------|--|
| DATE      | December 7, 43 BC                              |
| TOP STORY | Marcus Tullius Cicero has been murdered!       |
| FEATURE   | Interview with Terentia, former wife of Cicero |

### PROLOGVS

Today's breaking news, that Marcus Tullius Cicero has been murdered, is momentous but hardly shocking: as we learn in this episode, Marc Antony, fed up with Cicero's oratorical abuse, had placed the speaker's name on the proscription lists published by the so-called Second Triumvirate. Romans who landed on proscription lists were declared enemies of the state. Cicero, well aware that he was living on borrowed time, tried to flee but was caught and killed by Antony's soldiers. Cicero's head and hands were cut off and taken back to Rome for display on the *rostra* (speaker's platform) in the forum. It was from this very platform that Cicero had delivered many stirring orations, including several of the anti-Antony *Philippics*, the speeches that ultimately cost Cicero his life.

The *Forum Romanum* crew celebrates Cicero's life with features on his family and on his extremely successful career as an orator. For the personal angle, Iulia Pauli interviews Terentia, Cicero's ex-wife. They were married for many years and had two children together, but Cicero divorced Terentia just a few years before his death. In her interview Terentia attempts to sketch a portrait of the man whose oratorical genius allowed him to rise from relative obscurity to the highest offices of the Roman Republic. An excerpt of one of Cicero's more famous speeches is read as a tribute to the power and style of his oratory.

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

1. Why did Marc Antony have Cicero killed?
2. His ex-wife Terentia describes Cicero as always working. How did Cicero spend his time?
3. What happened to Cicero's beloved daughter Tullia?
4. What are some of the places associated with Cicero's study of philosophy and oratory mentioned by Serenus in the weather segment?
5. What gruesome detail does Serenus mention near the end of his weather segment?

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 primum, ecce quaestio hodierna!

*QUAESTIO HODIERNA*

LECTOR

Quaestio hodierna est haec: Quem Cicero amavit plus quam vitam suam?  
Responsum dabitur ad finem *Fori Romani*.

*QUID NOVI?*

FAVONIUS

Et nunc videamus quid novi sit. Hos nuntios modo recepimus: Marcus Cicero mortuus est!  
Marcus Tullius Cicero, orator clarissimus, **consularis et pater patriae**, hodie trucidatus est prope Formianum. Marcus Antonius, **triumvir rei publicae constituendae**, oratorem **proscripsit ob orationes Philippicas** quas Cicero in foro habuit. Ut plura audiamus, eamus cito ad Iuliam Pauli quae est apud ipsissimum sceleris locum.

*PERSONA NOTANDA (INTERVIEW WITH TERENTIA)*

IULIA

Adsum apud Formianum, Favoni. Ut narrant servi qui rem videbant, Cicero primo temptavit fugere, sed videns milites Antoni advenientes, lecticam stitit et obtulit gladio nobile caput, quod milites statim praeciderunt. At vero satis de morte Ciceronis, loquamur de eius vita. Mecum est Terentia, prima uxor Marci Ciceronis. Salve, Terentia.

TERENTIA

Salve, Iulia.

IULIA

Pergratum est te nobiscum adesse hoc tempore tam tristi.

TERENTIA

Nihil est.

IULIA

Res gestae Ciceronis sunt bene notae omnibus. Tu, Terentia, erat uxor Ciceronis materque liberorum eius. Qualis homo erat Marcus Tullius Cicero?

TERENTIA

Amans patriae atque negotio studiosus. Credibile non est quantum laboris in orationes noster Marcus applicabat!

IULIA

Atque quanta eloquentia est in his orationibus, inter quas sunt *Pro Archia* et *Pro Caelio* et orationes *In Catilinam*!

TERENTIA

At vero, ut identidem ego dicebam fore, illud magnum ingenium ad artem dicendi Ciceroni magnum malum tandem tulit. Nam ob orationes *Philippicas*, illa eloquentia Ciceronis nunc exstincta est.

IULIA

Noli haec dicere, Terentia! Nonne hae orationes scriptae sunt in tabulis? Eloquentia Ciceronis ergo numquam morietur.

TERENTIA

Fortasse.

IULIA

Quid de aliis rebus. Quo modo Cicero otium consumere solebat?

TERENTIA

Scribendo. Semper scribendo, aut libellos *De officiis amicitiaque* aut epistulas. Plurimas epistulas. Re vera, nil fecit Cicero domi nisi scribere! Omnia alia mihi agenda erant!

IULIA

Certissime! Scribere igitur Cicero maxime amavit, nonne?

TERENTIA

Erat una quam Cicero multo magis amavit.

IULIA

Quem? Te?

TERENTIA

Mene? Haud! Loquor de Tullia, filia nostra. Eam Cicero amavit plus quam vitam suam!

IULIA

Itane dicis? Ubi est haec Tullia nunc?

TERENTIA

Nunc? Cum patre.

IULIA

Non satis intellego.

TERENTIA

Tullia mortua est paucis annis ante.

IULIA

Pessime! Me maxime paenitet!

TERENTIA

Mitte ea. At vero, gravissime tulit Marcus mortem Tulliolae suae!

IULIA

Quam tristissimas res narras, Terentia. Utinam esset nobis plus temporis ad his de rebus loquendum. At verum non est. Gratias tibi ago, Terentia. Cura ut valeas. Totum est, Favoni. Rursus ad te.

*(EXCERPTA AB ORATIONE M. CICERONIS)*

FAVONIUS

Ad vitam Marci Ciceronis commemorandam, haec sunt excerpta ab una de orationibus, **habita ad Quirites**.

*(Lector reads excerpt from Cicero's De lege Manilia)*

TEMPESTAS HODIERNA

FAVONIUS

Tempus est audire de tempestate. Quam ob rem, hic est Aulus Serenus!

SERENUS

Gratias tibi ago, Favoni. Videamus quanam sit tempestas hodie. Totam per Italiam, Iupiter pluit, quasi Marco Cicerone mortuo, caelestes lacrimant. Auspicia autem sunt meliora ad tempestatem crastinam. In Graecia, ubi Cicero erat ad philosophiae studendum, (atque ubi **in exilio** erat) caelum adhuc nubilosum est. Etiam est nubilosum totum per Mare Aegaeum, praesertim hic ubi est **Rhodus**, insula in qua Cicero rhetoricae studuit. Melius si numquam noster Tullius rhetoricae studisset; fortasse caput et manus eius non in **rostris** nunc penderent! Ut Cicero ipse inquit, "O tempora, O mores!" At tamen, iam satis est. Aulus Serenus sum atque spero caela sint vobis valde serena!

FAVONIUS

Multas gratias, Serene. Et nunc, ecce responsum quaestioni hodiernae.

RESPONSUM QUAESTIONI

LECTOR

Quaestio hodierna erat ut sequitur: Quem Cicero amavit plus quam vitam suam? Responsum est hoc: Tulliam, suam filiam.

FAVONIUS

Nunc tempus est videre nostrum dictum hodiernum!

DICTUM HODIERNUM

LECTOR

Hoc est dictum hodiernum: **O tempora, O mores!**

VALEDICTIO

FAVONIUS

Verba notanda. Ut repetamus nuntios principales: Marcus Tullius Cicero, orator et consularis atque pater patriae mortuus est! Totum est ad hanc editionem *Fori Romani*. Gratias summas agimus et di vobis faveant. Valet omnes!

## COMMENTARIUM

**consularis et pater patriae.** *Consularis* designates a man who has held the consulship. *Pater patriae*, “father of his country,” was an honorary title awarded Cicero for his efforts in exposing and suppressing the conspiracy of Catiline in 63 BC.

**De officiis, De amicitia.** Two essays by Cicero—*On Duties* and *On Friendship*.

**epistulas (“letters”).** Many of Cicero’s letters to his friends and associates survive and give us a inside account of Cicero’s life and the last days of the Roman Republic.

**Formianum.** Cicero was killed at his villa near Formiae.

**(oratio) habita ad Quirites.** The phrase *orationem habere* means “to give an oration.” An oration that is given (*habita*) *ad Quirites* is one that is delivered to the people of Rome. Other orations Cicero gave were delivered *ad iudices* (literally, “to the judges” in a law court) and *ad patres conscriptos* (“to the conscript fathers,” or senators, given in a meeting of the Roman senate).

**in exilio.** Cicero was briefly exiled in 58 BC for his actions as consul in having five Romans suspected of conspiring with Catiline executed without trial. He spent his exile in Greece.

**orationes Philippicas.** Cicero’s speeches against the tyranny of Antony were called *Philippicae* (*Philippics*) because they were modeled on speeches given by the Athenian orator Demosthenes against the tyranny of Philip of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great).

**O tempora, O mores!** An often-quoted line from Cicero’s first oration against Catiline, the literal translation is “O the times, O the customs!” The line is an expression of exasperation at how sad a state the world is in, with people behaving the way they do (which obviously explains why this line is so frequently quoted!).

**Pro Archia, Pro Caelio, In Catilinam.** Famous orations of Cicero. The first two were legal speeches in defense of Archias and Caelius Rufus. The four orations against Catiline were given during Cicero’s consulship, and, because they exposed a plot against the Roman state, earned Cicero the title *pater patriae* (see above).

**proscripsit.** Proscription was the act of posting the names of enemies of the state who may be captured or killed for a reward. Antony had Cicero proscribed.

**Rhodus.** The island of Rhodes, off the coast of Asia Minor, was a center of the study of rhetoric—the art of using language persuasively.

**rostris.** The *rostra* was the platform used by orators to speak to the Roman people in the forum. It was so called because it was decorated with the prows (*rostra*) of ships taken captured in a war in the fourth century BC.

**triumvir rei publicae constituendae.** The official title of each of the three members of the so-called Second Triumvirate—Marc Antony, Octavian (later Augustus), and Marcus Lepidus. This alliance, created in 42 BC in response to the political crises of the period, gave the three men broad powers.

## GLOSSARIUM

ad finem – at the end (of)  
ad tempestatem crastinam – for tomorrow's weather  
adhuc – still  
advenientes – approaching  
amans patriae – patriotic  
apud ipsissimum sceleris locum – at the very scene of the crime  
at tamen – but anyhow  
caelestes lacrimant – the gods (“sky dwellers”) are crying  
cito – quickly  
di vobis faveant! – may the gods favor you!  
fortasse – perhaps  
gravissime tulit – (he) took it very badly  
identidem – again and again  
ingenium – natural talent  
lecticam stitit – ordered his litter stopped  
melius si – [it would have been] better if  
mene? = me + ne?  
nubilosum – cloudy  
O tempora, O mores! – O the times, O the customs!  
ob orationes...quas habuit – because of the speeches he delivered  
obtulit gladio nobile caput – offered his noble head to the sword (stuck his head out)  
otium consumere – spend [his] free time  
paucis annis ante – a few years ago  
penderent – hang  
pergratum est – It's very nice  
plurimas epistulas – many, many letters  
plus quam – more than  
praeciderunt – (they) cut off  
praesertim – especially  
prope Formianum – near his villa at Formiae  
qualis homo – what sort of person  
quam ob rem – and so; for this reason  
quasi – as if  
rei publicae constituendae – for organizing the state  
res gestae – achievements  
trucidatus est – was cut down  
ut dicebam fore – as I said would happen  
ut plura audiamus – to hear more...  
utinam esset – if only there were  
uxor – wife  
valde serena – really sunny

## LATINE LOQUAMUR

### Useful expressions

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

At vero – But really

Certissime. – Most definitely.

Credibile non est– It’s unbelievable

Cura ut valeas. – Take care of yourself.

Di vobis faveant. – May the gods favor you.

Gratias tibi ago. – I thank you.

Gratias! – Thanks!

Haud! – Not at all; no way!

Itane dicis? – You don’t say.

Iam satis est. – Enough already.

Loquamur de...– Let’s talk about...

Me maxime paenitet. – I’m so sorry.

Mihi nomen est...– My name is...

Minime! – Not at all! No way!

Mitte ea. – Forget it.

Multas gratias! – Thanks a lot!

Nihil est. – It’s nothing; don’t mention it.

Non satis intellego. – I don’t get it.

Pessime! – How terrible!

Quid novi? – What’s new?

Re vera – in fact; indeed

Salvete! – Greetings!

Valete! – Goodbye!

### Talking the talk

Below is a short conversation that uses some of these useful expressions. Do your best to translate the conversation, then practice the dialogue in Latin with a partner.

**Iulia:** Salve, Terentia! Quid agis?

**Terentia:** Pessime!

**Iulia:** Pessime? Quid negoti est?

**Terentia:** Nimis multa mihi agenda sunt. Credibile non est!

**Iulia:** Me maxime paenitet, Terentia. Tibi semper plurima agenda sunt, ut mihi videtur.

**Terentia:** At vero, ita est vita mea. At tamen, eundum est mihi! Vale, Iulia!

**Iulia:** Et tu, Terentia, cura ut valeas!

## 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. Superlative forms**

Adjectives and adverbs have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative. For example, “fast” is positive degree, “faster” is comparative, and “fastest” is superlative. Often, but definitely not always, the superlative has an *-issimus* or *-errimus* ending (compare the *-est* ending in English).

**Example in context**

1. orator clarrissimus
2. Certissime!
3. gravissime tulit Marcus
4. quam tristissimas res

**Translation**

1. very famous orator
2. Most definitely!
3. Marcus took it very badly
4. what awfully sad things

**2. Diminutive**

A diminutive is a form that indicates smallness. This “smallness” can be in actual size or in one’s estimation or opinion. Diminutives are often used to show fondness, as in “my little darling,” or contempt, as in “you little jerk.” Cicero was very fond of his daughter Tullia and therefore called her *Tulliola*..

**Example in context**

Gravissime tulit Marcus mortem Tulliolae suae.

**Explanation**

Marcus took the death of his little Tullia very badly.

**3. Present participles**

Participles describe nouns. They are adjectives that have some of the characteristics of verbs. Present participles in Latin end in *-ns* in the nominative case. They use third declension endings attached to a base ending in *-nt*. In English these present participles are translated with “-ing,” as in “the running man.”

**Example in context**

[Cicero] videns milites Antoni advenientes...

**Translation**

[Cicero], seeing Antony’s soldiers arriving...

**4. Gerunds and gerundives**

Gerunds are verbal nouns that sum up the act of doing something as a noun. Like present participles, gerunds are translated with “-ing,” but they are used as nouns, not adjectives. Gerundives are participles (verbal adjectives). They refer to something that is to be done or something that must be done. Both gerunds and gerundives use the endings of the second declension and always have *-nd* in the noun stem.

**Example in context**

1. illud magnum ingenium ad artem dicendi
2. Scribendo
3. Omnia alia mihi agenda erant!
4. ad his de rebus loquendum
5. ad vitam Ciceronis commemorandam
6. verba notanda

**Translation**

1. that great talent in the art of speaking
2. By writing
3. Everything else had to be done by me!
4. for talking about these things
5. for commemorating Cicero’s life
6. words to be remembered



## 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. At this point, don't translate, just give the gist—that is, an in-a-nutshell summary or paraphrase.

**Iulia:** Quo modo Cicero otium consumere solebat?

**Terentia:** Scribendo. Semper scribendo, aut libellos de officiis amicitiaque aut epistulas. Plurimas epistulas. Re vera, nil fecit Cicero domi nisi scribere! Omnia alia mihi agenda erant!

**Iulia:** Certissime! Scribere igitur Cicero maxime amavit, nonne?

**Terentia:** Erat una quam Cicero multo magis amavit.

**Iulia:** Quem? Te?

**Terentia:** Mene? Haud! Loquor de Tullia, filia nostra. Eam Cicero amavit plus quam vitam suam!

**Iulia:** Itane dicis? Ubi est haec Tullia nunc?

**Terentia:** Nunc? Cum patre.

**Iulia:** Non satis intellego.

**Terentia:** Tullia mortua est paucis annis ante.

**Iulia:** Pessime! Me maxime paenitet!

**Terentia:** At vero, gravissime tulit Marcus mortem Tulliolae suae!

**Iulia:** Quam tristissimas res narras, Terentia!

## DELIBERANDA

1. Cicero was a newcomer to Roman politics (the Latin term was *novus homo*) but achieved the highest offices and honors the state could offer, largely owing to his gift for oratory. How important is oratory or rhetoric (the art of using language persuasively) in politics today? Can you think of any politicians—in the present or the recent past—who owe their success to their rhetorical talents?
2. Although rhetoric was a primary area of focus in the education of ancient Romans, people today often use the term “rhetoric” in a negative way, in the sense of skillfully chosen words that are not necessarily true and designed to trick people. Why do you think “rhetoric” has taken on that sense in our vocabulary today?

## EXERCITATIO

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

1. Marcus Cicero trucidatus est prope Formianum.
2. Antonius Ciceronem proscrispsit ob orationes *In Catilinam*.
3. Prima uxor Ciceronis appellata est Terentia.
4. Cicero erat amans patriae atque negotio studiosus.
5. Cicero Terentiam amabat magis quam vitam suam.
6. Tullia mortua erat antequam Cicero mortuus est.
7. Gravissime tulit Cicero mortem Tulliolae suae.
8. In Asia Cicero rhetoricae studuit.
9. Eloquentia Ciceronis numquam morietur.

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

1. Qui sunt nuntii principales huius editionis *Fori Romani*?
2. Quis, iratus ob orationes Philippicas, Ciceronem proscrispsit?
3. Quo ivit Cicero ad philosophiam studendam?
4. Quanam est tempestas per maiorem partem Italiae?
5. Quid est dictum hodiernum?

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

1. Responsum dabitur ad finem *Fori Romani*.
2. Me maxime paenitet!
3. Non satis intellego.
4. Hos nuntios modo recepimus!
5. Tullia mortua est paucis annis ante
6. Nil fecit Cicero domi nisi scribere.
7. Gratias summas agimus.
8. Di vobis faveant!
9. Haud!

### IV. QUOMODO DICITUR LATINE? (HOW DO YOU SAY IT IN LATIN?)

1. Hello, everyone!
2. My name is Marcus Favonius.
3. Words to remember.
4. Thanks a lot, Serenus.
5. It's nothing.
6. perhaps
7. I'm sorry.
8. And now...
9. It's time to hear about the weather.

### STVDIA AMPLIVS: *Orationem habere (Delivering an oration)*

In Cicero's time, oratory and rhetoric were critical skills that young Romans of good family were expected to learn. Today, public speaking skills may not receive as much attention in schools, but they are still important to a young person's success in all sorts of careers.

The object of this activity is to deliver a Ciceronian-style oration that follows the organization for a classical oration defined on the following page. You can have students work individually or in teams to do their presentation.

- For an individual presentation, the student prepares and delivers a three-minute speech.
- For team presentations, teams of three to five students prepare a five-minute speech and deliver it as a team, one speaking after the other.

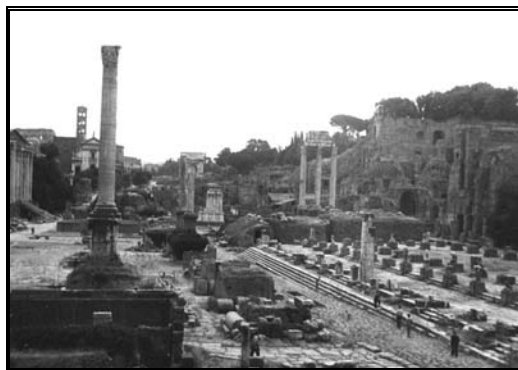
Rather than having presenters stand in front of a class or seated students, add more "atmosphere" by finding a spot on your school grounds or campus to be your forum. Look for a broad public space with a raised area nearby on which speakers can stand (like the *rostra* in ancient Rome).

Consider the main entrance to the school or a campus building that has stairs leading into it and a paved area at the bottom of the stairs where your audience (the speaker's classmates) can stand to listen to the speeches.

### Choosing a topic

Have students choose a topic for their oration, with guidance from you as appropriate—both in terms of a topic for a public address in a school activity and one that suits the organizational scheme defined below.

Their topic should be something that could be argued from at least two sides. For example, a presentation could argue that the school day should be lengthened by an hour but the school year shortened. Other topics might be changing the voting age from 18 to 16, or increasing public funding for education—either on the K–12 level, to have better books and materials, or on the college level, to reduce tuition.



**Roman forum with Basilica Iulia in foreground (on right)**

## Organizational structure

The speeches should follow this structure, the typical outline of a classical oration. Notes are provided to guide students in developing their oration.

- I. **Exordium** (Introduction). Start by grabbing your audience's attention, establishing your credibility and, in general, winning them over. Then introduce your topic. Here are some suggestions:
  - To grab your audience's attention, ask a thought-provoking rhetorical question, cite a startling statistic, or tell a short but interesting or humorous story.
  - To establish your credibility—make them trust you—show or mention your good character and integrity. (Aristotle called this the appeal to *ethos* or moral character.) You can also briefly summarize your knowledge and firsthand experience on the subject of your speech so that people know you are someone they should listen to, believe, and trust.
  - Beyond just establishing your credibility, to win them over you can say something self-effacing or endearing or, even better, you can give your audience a sincere compliment. Roman orators had a term for capturing the audience's goodwill (*captatio benevolentiae*), and it's an important part of your opening.
- II. **Narratio** (Statement of the facts). In the second part of a classical oration you set the stage, so to speak, by providing a simple account of the nature of the case or summary of the issue. You can also outline the parts of your speech—generally your points of proof. In Latin, this outline preview is the *partitio* and is sometimes treated as a separate component from the *narratio*.
- III. **Confirmatio** (Presentation of your arguments). This is the main part of the speech, where you provide your arguments, evidence, and proof to make your case. You should aim to have three points to make in proving your case. While in your *exordium* you try to appeal to character (*ethos*), in the *confirmatio*, you usually want to appeal to reason or logic, or what Aristotle called *logos*.
- IV. **Refutatio** (Refutation). After presenting your convincing points, you then anticipate and refute opposing arguments. For example, you might say, "Of course, there are some who would say that what I suggest is wishful thinking, but what I'm advocating is not only possible, it's been done before by people with much less talent and determination than we have!" Or you might say something like "Now, I know you're thinking it'll never work. Well I'm here to tell you it has worked before and will work again!"
- V. **Peroratio** (Conclusion). Finally comes the conclusion, where you sum up your arguments and emphasize the most important points of your message. In the *peroratio*, speakers often appeal more to *pathos* (emotion or feeling) than to anything else.