

ARS ET ANIMUS



**2025-2026
LATIN LITERARY POETRY WINNERS**

ARS ET ANIMUS

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present the latest edition of ARS ET ANIMUS, Upper Dublin's annual celebration of student literary achievement.

This volume brings together an exceptional collection of creative and poetic works from high school students whose voices reflect both a deep respect for the ancient world and a vibrant, contemporary imagination. Each piece demonstrates how classical languages, literature, and ideas continue to inspire meaningful expression today.

Featured here are the winning selections of poetry, composed in both English and Latin. These works reveal not only impressive linguistic skill, but also thoughtful engagement with classical themes—myth, history, philosophy, and the enduring questions that connect past and present.

From evocative storytelling to insightful interpretation, our student authors engage with antiquity, reimagining its stories and ideas in ways that feel both timeless and new. Their writing reminds us that the study of the classics is not merely an act of preservation, but one of creative renewal.

We are deeply grateful to the students whose dedication and talent make this publication possible. Their work affirms the continued relevance and vitality of classical studies.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the teachers and mentors who support and inspire these young scholars, fostering curiosity, discipline, and a love of learning.

We invite you to explore these pages and engage with the voices within. May they inspire reflection, spark curiosity, and strengthen our shared appreciation for the classical tradition.

Enjoy, and gratias vobis agimus.



EDITOR



CONTENTS

Poetry

UNDERCLASSMEN

- 7 **ROTTING BEES &
SOUR FRUIT**
- 11 **ALWAYS THEY GRIEVE**
- 15 **MARE OBSCURUM**

UPPERCLASSMEN

- 19 **NATURE'S INK**
- 23 **THE PERSISTENT WINTER**
- 27 **ALL FLOWS FROM THE
MOUNTAIN**
- 31 **TALE OF THE VIBRANT
STAR**

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ROTTING BEES & SOUR FRUIT

Elise Brasch, 10th Grade
Place: XXXX

Memento, somnia, o iuvenis scriptor;
sollemnem fabulam compone.
Olim fructus dulcis sed arcanus sub arbore cadit.
Ecce!
Apis famelica volat et ad fructum ruit.
Apis fructui indulget; vita marcescit.
Diligens apis requiescit.
Fructus malitiose subridet.
Res non sunt sicut apparent.
Subito aura corpus apis immotum sustulit.
Alae eius lacerantur.
Dei irati sunt; apem lugent.
Fructus maledictus dolore mortis afficitur.
Fructus sub arbore manet.
Cutis eius lente putrescit,
sed risus eius per dolorem perseverat.
Caro putrescit, sed superbia non.
Fabula excedit.

ROTTING BEES & SOUR FRUIT

English translation

"Remember, dream, oh young writer

Compose a solemn tale!"

Once upon a time, there were sweet but mysterious fruits falling from the tree.

Look!

The mad bee flies and rushes to the fruit.

The bee indulges in the fruit; life withers...

He rests.

The fruits smile maliciously.

Things are not as they seem.

Suddenly, the breeze swiftly lifted the bee's motionless body.

The gods are angry; they mourn the bee.

Cursed, the fruit is afflicted with the pain of death.

The fruit remains under the tree, in horror.

Its skin slowly rots

But it's laughter endures through pain

Flesh rots, but pride does not.

The story closes.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

It is a tale of how the wary conquer the naive, and how the naive conquer the wary. The bee represents one who can inflict pain, but remains innocent and hungry, yearning for more. The fruit represents something pure and sweet. Alluring, but fatal. As the bee eats, it becomes ill and passes on. The poet composes his own past memories of being used and deceived when he is at a desperate, low point. The story he writes is solemn, yet it tells of nature not being as it seems. The tone soon shifts to anger and chaos as the gods realize betrayal between the two. They side with the bee instinctively, the moving, feeling creature. As the fruit continues to laugh, the gods curse it with disdain. Its body rots, but it remains prideful, mocking the unfairness of the gods, and it withers and dies. That is where the story abruptly ends, showing that not all stories have happy endings. There is no justice, and the reader remains unsatisfied. That means the poet has done his job.

The Latin in this poem emphasizes thought-provoking betrayal by a young mind, revealing tarnished naivety and the punishment for the one who destroyed innocence. The use of the verb "indulget" shows not just hunger, but the desperation of the bee. Innocence is shown from the opening line, but soon madness and an indulging hunger overtake him, and he ends up being his own end. There is a contrast between "marcescit" and "vita," which suggests the sudden harshness of death overtaking the innocent, mad bee. It wasn't his fault, for he was mad with hunger, but it cost his life. The shift at "subito" shows the sudden anger of the gods, gently guiding the bee's body away from harm, and punishing the tainted fruit. The final line "fabula excedit" reinforces the unsatisfying ending, proving that not every story ends happily, and not every story has or needs a hero to be complete.



Elise Brasch is a proud Sophomore in Latin III at Upper Dublin High School. She is part of the Latin club. She has won awards at the PAJCL Latin convention at Penn State. Outside of Latin, she is in the Upper Dublin High School Marching Band & Indoor Percussion, which won a caption award, first place in the Regional A Class in 2026, playing the center marimba in the front ensemble. She also enjoys art, such as drawing, painting, and writing prose!

ARS ET ANIMUS

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ALWAYS THEY GRIEVE

Morgan Keaton, 10th Grade

Place XXXX

Serenum sed sonorum atramentum dolet.

Epistula in litore per stellas lucet.

Utinam...

Cum atramentum lucet et ardet,

stellae litus illuminant.

Epistulam vident

et semper dolent.

Subito oceanus paenitentia conquiescit.

Litus triste fit.

Stellae clamant.

Atramentum semper sanguinat.

Sed numquam ante tempus finitum est.

ALWAYS THEY GRIEVE

English translation

It is quiet, but the grieving ink is deafening.

It is loud as the stars shine through the shore onto the letter.

If only...

It is loud when the ink shines,

burning as the stars illuminate the shore.

They see the letter,

And always they grieve.

Suddenly, the ocean quiets with regret.

The shore turns sad.

The stars scream.

Ink will always bleed.

But never before its time is up.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

The piece is about grief and how loud it is, even in the calmest of places. The poem describes a letter on a shore, the ink carrying sorrowful news. The stars see this letter and are reminded of their grief once more. The poem's melancholy feel is strengthened by silence and peace. "Always They Grieve" is a gentle reminder that, while the world still moves on after grief, it is a truly powerful element, screaming even in the most silent of settings.

The Latin in this poem emphasizes the idea that grief can be so quiet, but so loud. The use of the verb "lucet" shows the stars and how they illuminate their own grief, and how we always find reminders of our lost loved ones. There is a contrast between "sonorous" and "serenus," suggesting that quiet emotions can also be deafening. The shift at "subito oceanus paenitentia conquiescit" shows that we often find regret in our grief. The final line, "sed numquam ante tempus finitum est," reinforces the idea that we take our time for granted.

Morgan Keaton is a Sophomore at Upper Dublin High School, currently studying her fourth year of Latin. She is passionate about music and theatre, dabbling in composing, playwriting, and acting. She has also studied Greek alongside Latin for the last four years, and desires to perform on Broadway.



ARS ET ANIMUS



MARE OBSCURUM

Connor Reece, 10th Grade

Place XXXX

Liber tristis et solitarius exspectat.

Mare obscurum mutatur.

Sine dubio,

unda silens in aeternum fluit.

Unda lunam spectat; liber moratur.

Subito imber erumpit.

Mare asperum fit.

Unda ruit.

Liber debiliter resistit,

sed liber consumitur.

MARE OBSCURUM

English translation

A sad and solitary book waits.

The dark sea shifts.

Without a doubt.

The silent wave flows forevermore.

The wave watches the Moon; the book pauses.

Suddenly, the rain pours.

The sea becomes harsh.

The wave rushes.

The book weakly resists,

but the book is consumed.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

"Mare Obscurum" is about a book floating through the sea at night. The book shifts, stuck at sea under the moonlight. Then, the environment shifts to become more aggressive, and the book is taken by the sea. This piece uses imagery to describe the environment and has a melancholic tone, suggesting that waiting can feel like an endless, dark sea.

As previously mentioned, the Latin in this poem emphasizes how waiting at first feels like a dark, empty sea. But eventually, the world moves along, and the person waiting is pulled along by change and can't wait any longer. The use of the verb "resistit" shows how the book tried to fight back against being carried along. There is a contrast between "fluit" and "ruit," which suggests that the sea is becoming harsher. The shift at "subito imber erumpit" shows how the world is moving on. The final line, "sed liber consumitur" reinforces how the person waiting is taken by the change.



Connor Reece is a 10th-grade student at Upper Dublin High School. He is currently in Latin III and has been studying Latin for 5 years. Outside of Latin, he is interested in graphic design and music.

ARS ET ANIMUS

NATURE'S INK

Charlotte Marlowe, 12th Grade

Place XXXX

Obscurum et densum atramentum scribit.

Influit sicut tenue flumen.

Brevi tempore,

dulces flores et arbor vere crescunt; fabula maturat.

Atramentum texit et errat per herbam in campo.

Terra poeta est; atramentum cadit per montes et silvas et agros.

Subito ignis e monte funditur, quidquid pulchrum est urit.

Subtilis terra nuda fit et plorat.

Sed terra se sanat.

Dulces flores explicantur et herba iterum surgit.

NATURE'S INK

English translation

The dark and thick ink writes.

It flows like a delicate river.

In a short time,

The flower and tree blossom, the story grows.

The ink weaves and wanders through the grass in an open field.

The earth is a poet; its ink spills through its mountains, forests, and fields.

Suddenly, fire pours from a mountain, burning everything beautiful

The delicate earth becomes bare and cries.

But the earth heals.

The sweet flowers uncurl, and the grass sprouts once again.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

"Nature's ink" is a poem about the beauty of the world and how its beauty can prevail through hard times. Throughout the poem, there are many similes comparing the ink to flowing rivers and wind through fields. It also personifies the world as a poet who writes with ink. The tone of the poem is hopeful and evokes a sense of awe; the similes of the ink as natural aspects of the world show the wonder and beauty of nature and how the earth writes the trees and flowers. "Nature's ink" leaves us with a sense of appreciation for nature and inspires us to prevail through hard times and create art.

The poem opens with a graceful depiction of Earth's ink spilling across its land, creating artwork in the trees, mountains, and fields. It changes when fire erupts from a mountain, burning everything beautiful. The Latin in this poem emphasizes the resilience of the Earth, and how, despite destruction, it rebuilds itself and continues to grow again. The contrast between a bare Earth that is weeping in pain from the loss of its art and an Earth that regrows and becomes beautiful once again also emphasizes the theme of resilience. The final line is important because it shows that despite the Earth being burnt and destroyed, it is resilient and regrows. This demonstrates that one can regrow and bloom again despite tragedy

Charlotte Marlowe is currently a 12th-grade student at Upper Dublin High School and is enrolled in AP Latin. She is the treasurer of the Latin club, participates in varsity track, concert band, and piano. Outside of school, Charlotte gives back to her community by volunteering at food kitchens, participating in service projects, and working at local senior centers.



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THE PERSISTENT WINTER

Olivia Moriconi, 12th Grade

Place XXXX

Antiquus et placidus scriptor murmurat.

Luminosa arbor obscurat.

Sine dubio,

sol clarus saepe epistulam illustrat.

Arbor et sol vincunt.

Subito rami moventur.

Arbor viva fit cum locutione.

Tamen sol micat.

Carmen lente ex stylo crescit.

Sed verba scriptoris manent.

THE PERSISTENT WINTER

English translation

The old and peaceful writer murmurs.

The colorful tree obscures.

Without a doubt,

The bright sun often makes the letter blossom.

The sun and the tree prevail.

Suddenly, the branches move.

The tree becomes alive with the phrase.

Even so, the sun sparkles.

The poem quietly grows from the pen,

But the words of the writer remain.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

The poem explores the relationship between creativity and nature, showing how the peaceful writer is surrounded by the bright sun and a blossoming tree. Through imagery and symbolism, the poem compares human expression with the strength of the natural world. Its calm tone shifts to a more optimistic tone as the sun and tree "prevail", representing their overshadowing power.

The Latin in this poem emphasizes its meaning through intentional word choice, calm verbs, and a clear structural shift. Words like "placidus" and "illustrat" stand out because they create vivid imagery and highlight the contrast between the quiet writer and the bright, powerful sun. Gentle verbs such as "murmurat" and "illustrat" make the mood more still, which deepens the tension between the writer's softness and the letter's fame. The shift at "subito rami moventur" moves the focus to nature and shows how the world continues without the writer. Yet the final line reveals his perseverance and proves that even as nature prevails, the writer endures.

Olivia Moriconi is a 12th-grade student at Upper Dublin High School, currently enrolled in AP Latin. At school, Olivia serves on the executive boards of the Latin Club, Investments Club, Dance Club, and Key Club. She has also been on the tennis team since her freshman year and is excited to finish her last year next season. Outside of school, Olivia loves to travel, shop, and play tennis for fun.



ARS ET ANIMUS



ALL FLOWS FROM MOUNTAIN

Kevin Lim, 12th Grade

Place XXXX

Fortis et serenus magister surgit.

Magnus mons vitam dat.

In animo tene,

discipuli cupidi semper audiunt.

Flumen ad montem fluit.

Subito caelum gaudet.

Mons infinitus fit.

Flumen canit.

Discipuli numquam timent,

sed magister meminit.

ALL FLOWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

English translation

The strong and serene teacher rises.

The large mountain gives life.

To hold in mind,

The eager students always listen.

The river flows to the mountain.

Suddenly, the sky rejoices.

The mountain is infinite.

The river sings.

The students never fear,

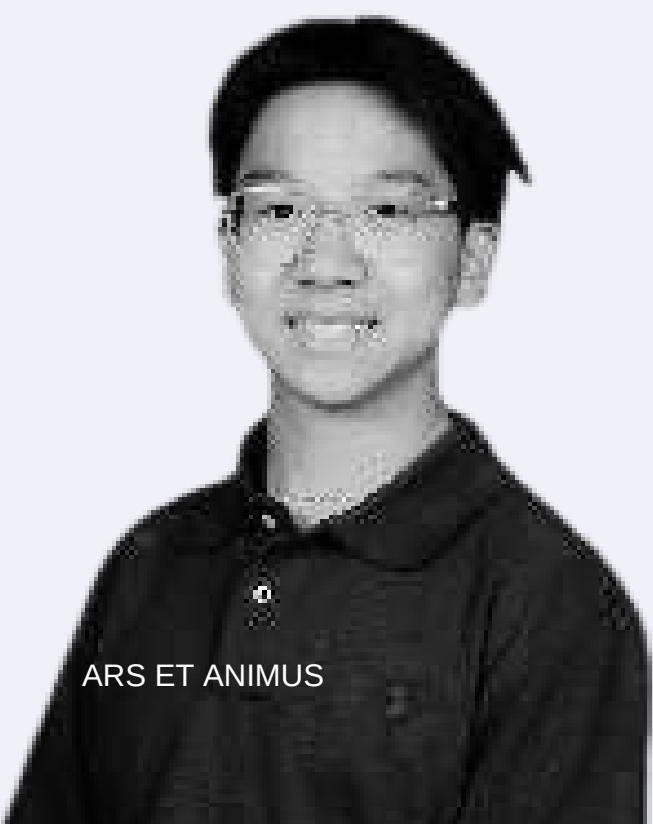
But the teacher remembers.

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

The teacher is seen as the powerful mountain, whose teachings flow to his students like a river flowing down the mountain. The students are eager for the teacher's knowledge and wisdom, just as the trees shift towards the river's edge. Similar to how the mountain supports the surrounding ecosystem, education is the intangible that empowers the people and moves society forward.

The use of the verbs "surgit" and "fluit" stands out because they connect the metaphor of the teacher as a mountain and the wealth of knowledge that flows out, creating a serene yet strong effect. The first line of the poem brings in tension as the teacher rises, showing his calm, self-contained power. The shift at "subito caelum gaudet" brings in added tension, as if there's a separate, outside observer who rejoices at the power of the teacher. In the final line, the poem returns to the teacher, which is important because it begins and concludes with a description of the teacher's wisdom.

A black and white portrait of a young man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark polo shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

Kevin Lim is a senior in AP Latin at Upper Dublin High School. In school, he serves as an officer in various clubs, including the Environmental Education Club and Cardinal Directions. Outside of school, he runs cross country and plays the double bass in his local youth orchestra.

ARS ET ANIMUS

TALE OF THE VIBRANT STAR

Emmanuelle Kramer, 12th Grade

Place: XXX

Liber et eloquens vates recitat.

Pulchrae stellae lacrimae cadunt.

Prima luce,

cantibus caeli splendidi resonat.

Subito stella amat.

Caelum lente descendit.

Stella inter nubes dormit.

Vates pulchri canunt.

Nox in diem influit.

Sed nunc atramentum arescit.

TALE OF THE VIBRANT STAR

English translation

Free and eloquent bards recite

A beautiful star's tears

At first light

With the songs of the shining sky

Suddenly, the star loves

The sky gently settles

The star sleeps among the clouds

Beautiful bards sing

Night flows into day

But now the ink dries

THE AUTHOR'S WORK

explained

This story details the relationship between a poet who tells a story and the sky and stars that respond to the call. It captures the beauty of nature at night and the song's efforts to tell a story that resonates with the reader about that beauty.

The Latin in this poem emphasizes the beauty of nature. The use of the verb "sleeping" shows that objects in the sky are personified as humans, living similar lives, loving and enjoying themselves, and feeling human emotions. There is a contrast between "Pulchrae stellae lacrimae cadunt" and "cantibus caeli splendidi resonat." which suggests a shift in emotional balance and a desire to feel more human and alive by the star. This personifies it. These shifts and personification create a sense of relatability to the stars, adding emotional weight.

Emmanuelle Kramer is a twelfth-grade student at Upper Dublin High School, a US Dept. State NSLI-Y Indonesian scholar and a former Editor-in-Chief of the PAJCL Keystone. In her free time, she enjoys making jewelry and filmmaking.



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ARS ET ANIMUS is the annual literary magazine of the Upper Dublin High School.

Dedicated to showcasing the finest creative and scholarly works from middle and high school students. Featuring award-winning pieces in prose and poetry, both in English and Latin, our publication celebrates excellence in classical literature, language, and imagination, connecting the ancient world with the voices of today's young scholars.

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NO.2