

## Teacher's Notes

### Hyginus on Arion and the Dolphin

THIS VERSION of the story of Arion is found in Hyginus' *Dē Astro-nomiā*, 2.17. The text is taken from <https://www.thelatinlibrary.com/hyginus/hyginus2.shtml>.

Ovid's account of Arion in the *Metamorphoses* (Reading 3F in *Animalia*) is a fine piece of poetry. We offer this alternate prose version for teachers using *Animalia* with intermediate students, who might find Ovid's version too difficult. It could also be used with advanced classes as a quick, easy introduction to the story before reading Ovid's version. (In this case note that Hyginus blames Arion's own slaves rather than the ship's crew.)

Hyginus begins with abbreviated accounts of two other stories about the constellation Delphinus: Poseidon used a dolphin as a messenger in his attempt to woo Amphitrite, and Dionysus placed a dolphin in the heavens to remind humans of the sailors who planned to betray him but were turned into dolphins. Hyginus then continues *Alii autem dicunt...* and tells the story of Arion. We changed *Alii* to *Quidam* since the former does not make sense without the preceding two versions.

The glosses use the same format as in the *Animalia* student book. They provide help with every word not in the end vocabulary of *Animalia* except *astronomiā* and *mythologicās* (introduction), *libertāte* (4), *innocēns* (8) and *perducti* (19); students should be able to deduce these.

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libertus, i m: vir qui olim erat servus sed qui nunc est liberatus  
Bibliothēcae Palatinae: magna bibliothēca quam Augustus prope templum Apollinis Palatini cōstrūxit  
praefēcit (praeficiō, praeficere, praefēci, praefectum) = cūrātōrem creāvit

- 1 delphina: cāsū Graecō accūsātivō  
Ariona: cāsū Graecō accūsātivō  
Ariōn, Ariōnis, m: poēta et mūsicus Graecus  
citharoedum (citharoedus, i, m): is qui citharā lūdit et cantat (cithara erat magna lyra Graeca)
- 2 Taenarum, i, n: urbs in Graeciā meridiānā prope mare sita trāvexit (trāvehō, trāvehere, trāvexī, trāvectus) = trānstulit, trānsportāvit
- 3 artificiō (artificium, i, n)= arte  
praestāret (praestō, praestāre, praestiti, praestitum) = superāret, vinceret  
quaestūs causā = ut pēcūniam obtinēret  
quaestus, ūs, m: pecūnia obtenta, lucrum
- 4 servulī = malī servī  
perfidiosā: infidēli, fidem nōn servante  
commodī = beneficii, ūtilitātis
- 5 servitūte (servitūs, servitūtis, f) = vitā servī
- 6 pelagus, i, n = mare  
bona (n pl) = rēs, possessiōnēs  
partirentur (partior, partiri, partitus sum) = divīderent  
cōgitatiōnem (cōgitatiō, cōgitatiōnis, f)= cōsiliū
- 9 quā saepe vīcerat veste: veste quā saepe vīcerat certāmina poētica  
quoniam = quia  
nēmō: nūllus alius homō
- 10 suum . . . ēventum: finem vitae suae, fātum suum  
questū (questus, ūs, m) = lamentatiōne  
prōsequerētur (prōsequor, prōsequi, prōsecūtus sum) = expōneret, nārrāret

## Arīōn ā Delphīnō Servātus (Hygīnus, Dē Astronomiā 2.17)

Gāius Iūlius Hygīnus (c. 64 B.C.–A.D. 17 ) erat libertus p̄ncipis Augustī. Erat vir doctissimus, quem Augustus Bibliothēcae Palatinae praefēcit. Per multōs librōs scrīpsit, quōrum omnēs praeter duōs āmissī sunt. Liber *Dē Astronomiā* orīginēs mythologicās cōstellatiōnum dēscrībit.

- 1 Quidam autem dicunt hunc esse delphīna qui Ariona citha-
- 2 roedum ex Siculō mari Taenarum trāvexit. Qui cum ceterōs
- 3 artificiō praestāret et circum insulās quaestūs causā vagārētur,
- 4 servulī eius arbitrātī plūs in perfidiōsā libertāte commodī,
- 5 quam in placidā servitūte esse, cōgitāre coepērunt ut, dominō
- 6 in pelagus proiectō, bona inter sē partirentur. Qui cum cōgit-
- 7 atiōnem eōrum sēnsisset, petiit, nōn ut dominus ā servis et
- 8 innocēns ab improbis, sed ut parēs ā filiis, ut sē liceret orn-
- 9 āre, quā saepe vīcerat veste, quoniam nēmō esset alius, qui ut
- 10 ipse suum questū prōsequerētur ēventum.

- 11 **Quod cum imperasset:** cum obtinisset id quod dēsiderābat  
 dēflēre (dēfleō, dēflēre, dēflēvī, dēflētum) = plōrāre
- 12 **prōnatant** (prōnatō I) = natant ad
- 13 **invocatā** (invocō I) = appellatā, obsecratā
- 14 **dēiēcit** (dēiciō, dēicere, dēiēcī, dēiectum): dē + iaciō
- 15 **Taenarium** (Taenarius, a, um): ad urbem Taenarum pertinēns  
 Cuius: delphīnī quī Ariona servāvit  
 memoriae causā = ad memoriam servandam
- 16 **simulacrum** (simulacrum, ī, n) = imāginem  
 adfixum (affigō, affigere, affixī, affixum) = applicātum,  
 adiūnctum
- 17 **astrologis** (astrologus, ī, m): eis quī astronomiae student
- 18 **figūrātum** (figūrō I) = mente conceptum, fictum
- 19 **comprehēnsī** (comprehendō, comprehendere, comprehēnsī,  
 comprehēnsus) = captī  
 nōn mediocri = gravī
- 20 **supplicio** (supplicium, ī, n) = poenā  
 sunt affectī = pūnitī sunt



Jan Muller, after Cornelis van Haarlem, *Arion on a Dolphin*, ca. 1590 (National Gallery of Art, CC0).

- 11 **Quod cum impetrasset,** citharā sūmptā, suam coepit dēflēre
- 12 **mortem;** quō sonitū ductī delphīnēs ē tōtō marī prōnatant ad
- 13 **Arionis** cantum. Itaque deōrum immortalium potestāte in-
- 14 **vocatā,** super eōs sē dēiēcit; quōrum ūnus Ariona exceptum
- 15 **per tulit** ad Taenarium litus. Cuius memoriae causā quae ibi
- 16 **statua statūta** est Arionis, in eā delphīnī simulacrum adfixe-
- 17 **um vidētur;** prō quā rē inter sīdera ab antiquis astrologis est
- 18 **figūrātum.** Servi autem, quī sē putābant servitūte ēlapsōs,
- 19 **tempestāte** Taenarum perductī, ā domino comprehēnsī, nōn
- 20 **mediocri** supplicio sunt affectī.

### Quaestiōnēs

1. Quid faciēbat Arīōn?
2. Quid servī eius facere cōstituērunt?
3. Cōnsiliō servōrum cognitō, quid rogāvit Arīōn? Cūr?
4. Arīone cantante, quid factum est?
5. Quōmodo Arīōn servātus est?
6. Quid est in statuā Arīonis?
7. Quōmodo delphīnus ob Arīonem servātum honōrātus est?
8. Quōmodo servī Taenarum advēnērunt?
9. Quid servīs factum est?