

PLAY-TIME

**Fourteen Latin plays
for younger pupils**

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Narrator: **ODYSSEUS AND THE CYCLOPS**

Narrator: After many labours, Odysseus and his sailors are returning to Greece. A huge giant, named Polyphemus, who has only one eye, has captured them and is guarding them in his cave.

Odysseus: How shall we escape from the cave?

Sailor 1: Oh dear! The giant has rolled a big rock across the doorway.

Sailor 2: Oh dear! We are all terrified.

Sailor 3: Oh dear! We shall never see our children.

Sailor 4: Oh dear! The giant has already eaten three sailors.

Sailor 5: Oh dear! We are all going to die.

Odysseus: I have a cunning plan.

Sailors: Hurray! Tell us!

Odysseus: I shall give the giant some wine and he will soon be asleep.

Narrator: The cunning Odysseus pours out the wine & hands it to Polyphemus.

Odysseus: Drink the wine!

Polyphemus: Who are you?

Odysseus: My name is Nobody.

Narrator: Soon Polyphemus is drunk and sleeps.

Odysseus: Sailors, help me! It is necessary to sharpen and heat this branch.

Sailors: We shall help you. Then we shall drive the branch into the single eye of the Cyclops.

Odysseus: Great! Afterwards we shall escape beneath the stomachs of his sheep.

Narrator: Now the Cyclops is blind, but he is able to let out his sheep to graze. He rolls the rock from the threshold and the sheep leave with the sailors.

Polyphemus: I cannot see you. Who has harmed me?

Odysseus: Nobody.

Narrator: The end.

narrator: **ODYSSEUS ET CYCLOPS**

narrator: post multos labores, Odysseus et nautae ad Graeciam reveniunt. gigas ingens, nomine Polyphemus, qui solum unum oculum habet, eos cepit et in spelunca custodit.

Odysseus: quomodo e spelunca effugiemus?

nauta 1: eheu! gigas magnum saxum trans portam volvit.

nauta 2: eheu! omnes perterriti sumus.

nauta 3: eheu! liberos numquam videbimus.

nauta 4: eheu! gigas tres nautas iam consumpsit.

nauta 5: eheu! omnes morituri sumus.

Odysseus : consilium callidum habeo.

nautae: euge! dic nobis!

Odysseus: vinum giganti dabo et mox dormiet.

narrator: Odysseus callidus vinum fundit et Polyphemo tradit.

Odysseus: vinum bibe!

Polyphemus: quis es?

Odysseus: nomen meum est Nemo.

narrator: mox Polyphemus ebrius est et dormit.

Odysseus: nautae, me adiuuate! necesse est hunc ramum acuere et calefacere.

nautae: te adiuvabimus. deinde ramum in oculum solum Cyclopi impellemus.

Odysseus: euge! postea sub ventribus ovium effugiemus.

narrator: nunc Cyclops caecus est, sed oves ad pascendum emittere potest. saxum e limine evolvit et oves cum nautis exeunt.

Polyphemus: vos videre non possum. quis me laesit?

Odysseus: Nemo.

narrator: finis.

Narrator: THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS

Narrator: Scene one. The wedding of Peleus and Thetis.

Zeus: Listen everyone! Today is the wedding of Peleus and Thetis.

Peleus: I am happy. You are so beautiful!

Thetis: I am also happy. You are so strong!

Zeus: Drink the wine! Eat the food!

All: Hurray! *(Suddenly Eris appears.)*

Eris: You didn't invite me to your wedding. Woe to you! But, this is a gift for you. *(She throws a golden apple into the middle).*

Peleus: *(He picks it up)* What is it?

Hermes: It's a golden apple. And on it is written 'for the most beautiful'.

Hera: I am the most beautiful.

Athena: No! I am the most beautiful.

Aphrodite: Do not speak false words! I am the most beautiful goddess.

Poseidon: We have a war of goddesses.

Hades: It is a battle of beauty.

Hermes: What shall we do?

Dionysus: I am Dionysus and I say: drink the wine! Be happy!

(The goddesses look towards Zeus, arguing.)

Aphrodite: Choose me!

Hera: The golden apple is mine.

Athena: Choose me!

Dionysus: *(He looks at the audience)* The goddesses are fighting. *(He looks at the goddesses)* Don't fight!

Zeus: Be quiet! Be quiet all of you! I am not the judge. Paris will be the judge. Paris is the Prince of Troy. He looks after his sheep.

Narrator: Scene two. Mount Ida.

(Paris wanders around singing 'baa, baa laniger' to the tune of 'baa, baa black sheep'. Suddenly the three goddesses appear before him.)

Paris: By Hercules! Who are these most beautiful women?

Hera: We are goddesses. Choose the most beautiful goddess!

Paris: It is very difficult.

Hera: If you choose me, you will be King of Asia and Europe.

Athena: If you choose me, you will be a very strong soldier, and will win all the wars.

Aphrodite: If you choose me, I shall give you the most beautiful woman in the whole world.

Paris: Yes indeed! I choose Aphrodite.

Aphrodite: Hurray!

Athena and

Hera: We shall never like the Trojans.

Narrator: The end.

narrator: IUDICIUM PARIDIS

narrator: scaena prima. nuptiae Pelei Thetidisque.

Zeus: audite omnes! hodie sunt nuptiae Pelei Thetidisque.

Peleus: ego laetus sum. tu tam pulchra es!

Thetis: ego quoque laeta sum. tu tam validus es!

Zeus: vinum bibite! cibum consumite!

omnes: euge! *(Suddenly Eris appears.)*

Eris: me ad vestras nuptias non invitavistis. vae tibi! sed,
hoc donum vobis est. *(She throws a golden apple into the middle.)*

Peleus: *(He picks it up.)* quid est?

Hermes: pomum aureum est. et 'pulcherrimae' in eo scriptum est.

Hera: ego pulcherrima sum.

Athena: minime! ego pulcherrima sum.

Aphrodite: nolite verba falsa dicere! ego dea pulcherrima sum.

Poseidon: bellum dearum habemus.

Hades: proelium pulchritudinis est.

Hermes: quid faciemus?

Dionysus: ego Dionysus sum et dico: vinum bibite! laeti este!

(The goddesses look towards Zeus, arguing.)

Aphrodite: me lege!

Hera: pomum aureum est meum.

Athena: me lege!

Dionysus: *(He looks at the audience.)* deae pugnant. *(He looks at the goddesses.)* nolite pugnare!

Zeus: tacete! tacete vos omnes! ego iudex non sum. Paris iudex erit.

Paris est princeps Troiae. oves curat.

narrator: scaena secunda. mons Ida.

(Paris wanders around singing 'baa baa laniger' to the tune of 'baa baa black sheep'. Suddenly the three goddesses appear before him.)

Paris: mehercle! quae sunt hae feminae pulcherrimae?

Hera: deae sumus. lege deam pulcherrimam!

Paris: difficillimum est.

Hera: si tu me leges, eris rex Asiae Europaeque.

Athena: si tu me leges, eris miles validissimus et omnia bella vinces.

Aphrodite: si tu me leges, tibi feminam pulcherrimam totius orbis terrarum dabo.

Paris: ita vero! Aphroditem lego.

Aphrodite: euge!

Athena et

Hera: nos Troianos numquam amabimus.

narrator: finis.

- Narrator:** **PANDORA'S JAR.**
I am the narrator. This story is about Pandora's Jar and about the evils of mankind.
- Narrator:** Scene one. In the sky.
- Hephaestus:** I am Hephaestus. This is a beautiful woman whom, on Jupiter's order, I have made out of mud.
- Athena:** I am Athena. I am giving her an expensive robe.
- Aphrodite:** I am Aphrodite. I am giving her charm and elegance.
- The 3 Graces:** We are the Three Graces. We are giving her golden necklaces.
- The Seasons:** We are the Seasons. We are giving her crowns decorated with spring flowers.
- Hermes:** I am Hermes. I am not giving her magnificent things, but fraud and flattery. She will have a sweet voice.
- Hephaestus:** Because the gods and goddesses are giving her so many gifts, I, Hephaestus, am giving her the name of Pandora.
- Narrator:** Scene two. On earth.
Pandora descends to earth and she is the bride of the good Epimetheus. The evil Jupiter is giving them a Jar.
- Jupiter:** I am giving you this Jar, but do not open it!
- Narrator:** Pandora and Epimetheus agree.
- Pandora:** I am very inquisitive. What is in the Jar? I must open it.
- Narrator:** Pandora lifts the lid. Suddenly all the evils of the world fly out.
- Voice 1:** Look, hatred!
- Voice 2:** Look, anger!
- Voice 3:** Look, old age!
- Voice 4:** Look, diseases!
- Narrator:** Pandora tries to shut the lid, but in vain. It is too late. However, in a corner of the Jar is one thing which will bring salvation to mankind.
- All:** Hope!
- Narrator:** The end.

narrator:	DOLIUM PANDORAE. narrator sum. haec fabula est de dolio Pandoraae et de malis hominum.
narrator:	scaena prima. in caelo.
Hephaestus:	Hephaestus sum. haec est femina pulchra, quam, iussu Iovis, e luto confeci.
Athena:	Athena sum. ego stolam pretiosam ei dono.
Aphrodite:	Aphrodite sum. ego venustatem et elegantiam ei dono.
Tres Gratiae:	tres gratiae sumus. nos monilia aurea ei donamus.
Horae:	Horae sumus. nos coronas floribus vernis ornatas ei donamus.
Hermes:	Hermes sum. ego res magnificas ei non dono sed fraudem et adulationem. illa vocem suavem habebit.
Hephaestus:	quod dei et deae tot dona ei dant, ego, Hephaestus, nomen Pandoraae ei dono.
narrator:	scaena secunda. in terra. Pandora ad terram descendit, et sponsa Epimethei boni est. Iuppiter malignus dolium eis dat.
Iuppiter:	hoc dolium vobis dono, sed nolite aperire!
narrator:	Pandora et Epimetheus consentiunt.
Pandora:	curiosissima sum. quid in dolio est? necesse est mihi id aperire.
narrator:	Pandora operculum tollit. subito evolant omnia mala orbis terrarum.
vox 1:	ecce odium!
vox 2:	ecce ira!
vox 3:	ecce senectus!
vox 4:	ecce morbi!
narrator:	Pandora operculum claudere temptat, sed frustra. serius est. in angulo dolii tamen est una res quae salutem hominibus feret.
omnes:	spes!
narrator:	finis.