

Instructions: This assignments assumes that you have successful and thoroughly read and comprehended lines 1-25 of Vergil's first Eclogue. **Email or call me if you have questions or need help with reading and translating this poem.** Pastoral vocabulary is new to you. See commentary.

A. Questions on Background Material:

1) _____, a Hellenistic poet from Greek Sicily (Syracuse) and the inventor of the pastoral genre of poetry, wrote his *Idylls* in _____, Egypt under the patronage of the _____ dynasty of which Cleopatra was the last ruler. What are the dates of this Hellenistic poet? _____

2) What is the historical context of Vergil's first Eclogue and its approximate date of composition/publication? What battle occurs in 42 BC? What are proscriptions?

3) Given your limited exposure to pastoral poetry (a very sexy genre) and your reading lines 1-25 what would you say are typical characteristics or conventions of this genre? For example the characters are often humble shepherds like Tit. and Mel.

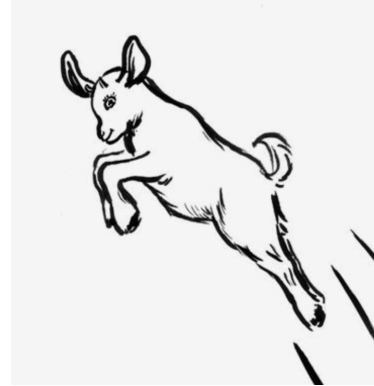
B. Questions on the Poem for Pastoral Bunnies in Need of Some Escapist Literature with shepherd, sheep, she-goats, love, pastoral song and the beautiful Amaryllis.

1) Scan lines 1-5. Vergil writes in dactylic hexameter.

Tityre, tu patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi
 silvestrem tenui Musam meditaris avena;
 nos patriae fines et dulcia linquimus arva.
 nos patriam fugimus; tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra
 formosam resonare doces Amaryllida silvas.



2) How is the shepherd Tityrus (Tit.) described by the shepherd Meliboeus (Mel.) in the first five lines? What is Tit. doing? Cite Latin to support



3) Find and cite all examples of the following figures of speech in lines 1-5.

alliteration

synchysis

anaphora

4) What pronouns are emphatic in lines 1-5 and what do they emphasize?

5) What is a *tenuis avena* (line 2)? Use Logeion to list a number of possible meanings of *tenuis*, *tenuis*. Which of these words may describe Vergil's style of poetry as well as the pipe itself?

5) What is Tytrus' relationship with the **deus** in lines 6-10? Cite Latin to support. Who may this youthful **deus** be?

6) What do we learn about the situation or predicament of Meliboeus in lines 11-18? Cite Latin to support. What do we assume will happen to the *gemellos capellae*? Support.

7) What is the gender, number and case of **quercus** in line 17 and which word modifies **quercus**? Translate this phrase into English? Whose tree is the **quercus, -ūs**?

8) Translate both **fuisset** and **memini** in context and justify **fuisset**.



9) Write the translation of line 18 below and justify the subjunctive in this line. What is the force of *iste* in this line?

10) What in lines 19 through 25 is antithetical to traditional pastoral poetry or the escapist pastoral world? How does Tityrus view this entity? How does it compare with his own experiences or world view? Cite Latin to support.

11) How should *tantum...quantum* be translated? What are these words called? Explain their case.

