

## BOOK I

1. What does Ovid say his purpose is in this long poem?
2. What is similar and different about Ovid’s creation story and the Bible’s?
3. What was the Golden Age of Man like? What caused its end?
4. What were the Silver and Bronze Ages like?
5. What was the Iron Age like?
6. What did Lycaon do and what was his punishment?
7. What is Jupiter’s solution to the Iron Age’s excesses?
8. Briefly retell the story of Deucalion and Pyrrha. Does it remind you of any other story?
9. Who makes Apollo fall in love with Daphne and why? How does Daphne react to his affections? What happens to her in the end?
10. How does Jupiter try to conceal his affair with Io? What does Juno do in response, and what is Io’s final fate?

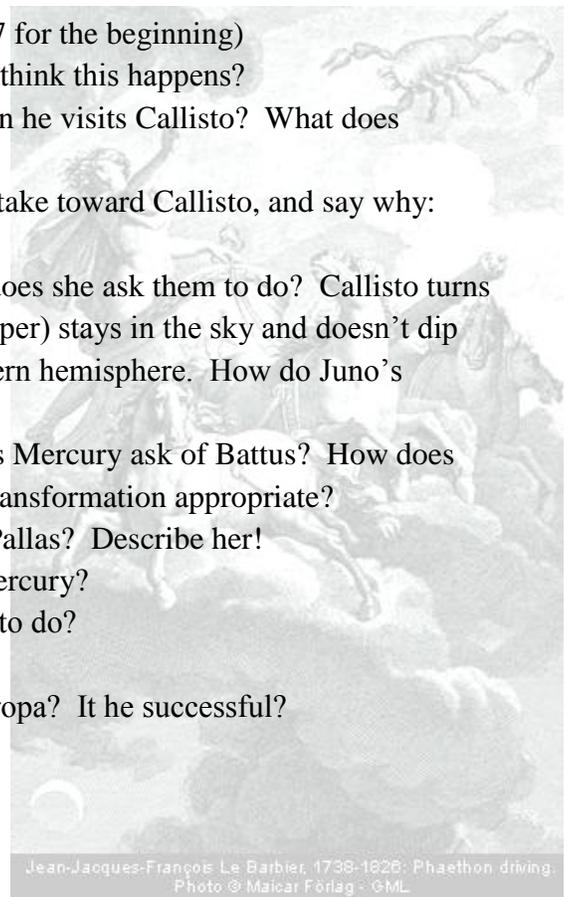


Mercury kills Argus, Io’s guardian  
(from *LIMC Io 14*)

## BOOK II    *Names to know: Callisto (nymph in “Jove in Arcady”); Pallas (Minerva)*

1. Summarize the story of Phaethon (reread pp. 26-27 for the beginning)
2. What happens to Phaethon’s sisters? Why do you think this happens?
3. What god(dess) does Jove disguise himself as when he visits Callisto? What does Callisto have in common with that god(dess)?
4. Summarize the attitude or action do the following take toward Callisto, and say why:  
a. Diana; b. Juno; c. Arcas; d. Jove
5. Why does Juno visit Tethys and Oceanus? What does she ask them to do? Callisto turns into the constellation *Ursa Major* (aka the Big Dipper) stays in the sky and doesn’t dip below the horizon year-round in most of the northern hemisphere. How do Juno’s actions explain this?
6. What does Battus witness Mercury do? What does Mercury ask of Battus? How does Battus prove himself untrustworthy? Why is his transformation appropriate?
7. Whom does Mercury see at a festival in honor of Pallas? Describe her!
8. Who is Aglauros, and what does she want from Mercury?
9. Describe “Envy.” What does Minerva want Envy to do?
10. What happens to Aglauros in the end?
11. How does Jupiter approach Agenor’s daughter Europa? Is he successful?

Phaethon loses control of the chariot  
(Jean-Jacques-Francois le Barbier)



Jean-Jacques-François Le Barbier, 1738-1826: Phaethon driving.  
Photo © Maicar Förlag - GML

### BOOK III

1. How does Cadmus decide where to build his city of Boeotia (which means “place to raise cattle”)?
2. What does Cadmus do with the serpent of Mars after he’s killed it? What happens when he does it?
3. Tell the story of Actaeon. Did he deserve what happened to him? Why?
4. What does Juno trick Semele into doing? Why? What happens?
5. Who is Semele’s child? Why is he called “twice-born”?
6. What is Tiresias’ story? Why and with what does Juno curse him? How does Jupiter soften this punishment?
7. Tell the story of Echo and Narcissus. What happens to each in the end?
8. Describe the fate of the Lydian sailors (the young man’s flashback story). Whom did they pick up? What did they do to him, and what happened because of it?
9. What happens to Pentheus, and why? Does he deserve it? Why or why not?



Actaeon stumbles upon Diana bathing  
(Titian, “Diana and Actaeon” 1559)

### BOOK IV



1. Summarize the story of Pyramus and Thisbe. What later story by Shakespeare does it remind you of?
2. Why does Vulcan make a net? What happens when he reveals to the other gods who he catches in it?
3. How does Venus have her revenge on Apollo? Why does she want revenge?
4. What happens to people who swim in the waters of the fountain Salmacis? How did this come to be?
5. Describe the punishments endured by Tityos, Tantalus, Sisyphus, and Ixion in the underworld (p. 96).
6. What happens to Cadmus and his wife? Why?
7. Describe the meeting between Perseus and Atlas.
8. What is the story of Perseus and Andromeda?
9. Why does Medusa have snakes in her hair?

Thisbe listens through the crack in the wall  
(J.W. Waterhouse, “Thisbe” 1909)

## BOOK V

1. Who is Phineus and why is he so angry? What does Cepheus say to him? How does Perseus finally finish the battle?
2. Who is Pyreneus and what does he try to do to the Muses (the daughters of Mnemosyne [Memory])? What happens to him?
3. Who are the Pierides (the birds who visit Minerva and the Muses)? What is their story (N.B. – it continues until the end of the book)?
4. What did the monster Typhoeus do, and what was his punishment? What natural phenomena does it explain?
5. Tell the story of how and why Pluto (the Dead Land's king) comes for Proserpina.
6. What does Ceres do when she discovers her daughter missing?
7. What is the deal that is worked out between Jupiter, Ceres, and Pluto? Why does it have to be worked out?
8. Tell Arethusa's story.
9. What is Triptolemus's task? How is he received by King Lyncus and why? What happens to Lyncus?



Pluto takes Proserpina  
(Bernini, "The Rape of  
Proserpina" 1622)

## BOOK VI

1. What is Arachne's story? Explain whether you think her fate is fair!
2. Compare/contrast what Arachne weaves with what Minerva (Pallas) weaves. Why do you think each chooses her particular theme?
3. Why is Niobe so upset? Why does she think she is better than Latona (the mother of Apollo and Diana)?
4. What happens to Niobe's sons? Her husband? Her daughters? Niobe herself?
5. Retell the second story Ovid tells about Latona (the one about the Lycian peasants).
6. What is Tereus' crime?
7. Why does Tereus' cut out Philomela's tongue? Does his plan work?
8. How do Philomela and Procne get their revenge?



Apollo, Diana, and Niobe's children

**BOOK VII** *Background: Jason's father Aeson, the king of Iolcus, was overthrown by his brother Pelias. Years later Jason confronts his uncle and demands the return of the throne to the rightful line; Pelias agrees on condition that Jason prove himself by going to Colchis and getting the legendary Golden Fleece that is kept there.*

1. Discuss some reasons why Medea chooses to help Jason instead of being loyal to her father Aeetes. Also discuss some reasons she shouldn't help Jason.
2. Aeetes gives three challenges to Jason in order to get the Golden Fleece. What are they, and how does Jason overcome each?
3. What does Jason ask of Medea after they've gone back home with the Golden Fleece? Does Medea agree or not? Why?
4. What does she promise instead? What are the steps she takes to make good on this promise?
5. Tell the story of Medea and the daughters of Pelias, including her betrayal.
6. What does Medea try to do to Theseus? How is this avoided?
7. When the princes of Athens come to Aegina to ask for help against King Minos of Crete, what is the sad story Aeacus tells?
8. Tell the story of the Myrmidons.
9. Tell the story of Cephalus and Procris.



*Mort de Procris (The Death of Procris)*

**BOOK VIII** *N.B. - at the start of this book King Minos of Crete has invaded Nisus's kingdom.*

1. What is Scylla's (Nisus' daughter) dilemma? What is her plan – it is successful? What happens to her?
2. Tell the story of Daedalus and Icarus. What seems to be the moral of the story?
3. Why do the people of Calydon ask for Theseus' help? What did they do to cause what was happening?
4. Name any four of the heroes and heroines that are present with Meleager to fight the boar and what part each plays in the fight.
5. Why does Meleager kill Plexippus and Toxeus (his mother's brothers)?
6. What does Althaea, Meleager's mother, do to avenge the deaths of her brothers



- (Plexippus and Toxeus)?
7. What test do the gods Jupiter and Mercury devise for men? Who are the only ones to pass it, and what is their reward?
8. Tell the story of Erysichthon.

The Calydonian Boar hunt  
Relief from a 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Roman sarcophagus