

Honors Latin 3: Summer Reading

Required Text

Harris, Robert. *Imperium: A Novel of Ancient Rome*. Simon & Schuster: Reprint Edition, 2007. 9780743498661

After a thorough review of Latin grammar and syntax, Honors Latin 3 students begin the year by reading excerpts from two of Cicero's most famous speeches, *Against Verres*, a speech which allowed Cicero to get a foothold in Roman politics, and *Against Catiline*, a speech which cemented Cicero's reputation as a patriot. Robert Harris's novel *Imperium* brings to life the political and historical context of both of these speeches and introduces readers to the historical figures we will discuss all year.

The following questions are due on the first day of class.

Part I: Senator

1. What was Cicero's role in the Republic at the beginning of *Imperium*?
2. How does Harris present this book? I.e., what sort of book does he want us to imagine we're reading: a legal thriller, a popular history, a biography, etc.?
3. What was so sensational about Cicero's prosecution of Verres?
4. Look up the *cursus honorum*. Name and define the duties of the political offices on the *cursus*.
5. Which character (besides Cicero) has made the biggest impression on you? Why?

Part II: Praetorian

6. What was Cicero's motivation for defending the ex-governor Fonteius against the Gauls' charges of corruption? Why does he feel the need to justify his actions?
7. What makes Pompey's plans to exterminate the pirates so extreme?
8. How were the praetors' courts awarded? Which court did Cicero get? What is his reaction?
9. Why did Cicero briefly consider defending Catilina?
10. What compromises did Cicero have to make in order to win the consulship?