

Reading Antiquity

Roman Workshop 1

What is the Loeb Classical Library, and what advantages do texts like these have when you are working on e.g. a gobbet essay? Find two examples of Loeb texts relevant to the Reading Antiquity module, and present your findings in 200 words.

What does a commentary on a classical text do? Please find Fordyce's commentary on Catullus in the library and describe what guidance Fordyce gives for Catullus poem 51.

What does a commentary on a classical text do and where can it take you? Please find W. Clausen's commentary on Vergil's Eclogues and describe what guidance Clausen gives for the first 15 lines of Verg. Ecl. 1 and what materials you would need to consider in addition to this text.

What does a commentary on a classical text do? Please find Bailey's commentary on Lucretius' De Rerum Natura and describe what guidance Bailey gives for the first five lines of Book 1.

What does a commentary on a classical text do? Please find Barsby's commentary on Terence's Eunuchus and describe what information Barsby gives in his introductory chapters.

Looking at the library shelves for material on Cicero and Vergil, what conclusions can you draw about how material on classical authors is organised on our shelves?

Using a commentary

- Even with very limited Latin/Greek you can make good use of a commentary
- Always use with a translation and a copy of the Greek/Latin text so that you can work out what line/sentence you need
- All commentaries will have useful introductions

Using the information

- **Abbreviations of works** – what is Mart. 7.16?
 - Use the main dictionaries (*Oxford Latin Dictionary*) in the library reference section to resolve them
 - They are important because this is also how you should reference primary sources
- **Abbreviations of journals and books**
 - Many commentaries use a short titles as they have limited space. For these, there will be a list of abbreviations at the end of the introduction
 - Journal names can be found either in the hard-copy volumes of the *Année Philologique* or online, e.g. at <http://canterbury.libguides.com/content.php?pid=29248&sid=229821>