

## Latin II > III Summer Reading Assignment: Gracchī

Ti. Et C. Gracchus erant Scīpiōnis Āfricānī<sup>1</sup> nepōtēs<sup>2</sup>. Dīligentiā Cornēliae mātris puerī doctī sunt. Cornēlia crēdidit eōs certē summam potestātem obtentūrōs esse. Quondam hospita, domō Cornēliae petītā, ōrnāmenta sua pulcherrima manū prae sē tenēns dēmōnstrābat. Tum Cornēlia līberōs suōs, quī cāsū aderant, manū tetigit atque hospitae dēmōnstrāns dīxit, “Haec sunt mea ōrnāmenta!”

Tiberius erat vir plēbī amīcus erat. Trībunus plēbis factus<sup>3</sup>, populō agrōs dare cupiēbat. Hī agrī pūblicī erant sed multōs annōs ā nōbilibus occupātī erant, quī dīxērunt sē eōs nōn redditūrōs esse. Tamen Tiberius populō eōs reddidit. Tum senātus convocātus dē Tiberiō cōnsuluit. Multī, eum dēspiciētes, interficere cupīvērunt. Tiberiō accēdente, Scīpiō Nāsīca, senātor, clāmāvit, “Venīte mēcum sī reī publicae salūtem cupitis.” Tum ille et aliī quī circum eum stāntēs incitātī sunt, Tiberium, impetū factō, interfēcerunt.

Posteā in somnō Gāius dīcitur vīdisse frātrem suum dīcentem, “Cūr dubitās, Gaī? Tū, quī superes, hoc negōtium perficere et vītā tuam populō dare debēs.” Itaque Gāius opus Tiberī sē perfectūrum esse statuit, neque eius cōnsilia dēsertūrum. Tribūnus factus<sup>4</sup>, plēbī frūmentum dabat et cīvitātem omnibus quī Italiam incolēbant. Mīlitēs autem exercēre nōn potuit et intellexit sē sine exercitū nihil efficere posse; ā multīs dēspectus et dēsertus et sine praesidiō fugere coāctus, interfectus est.

Itaque senātus mortem Graccōrum effēcit. Sed cōnsilia hōrum fratrum duōrum mansērunt, et Rōmānī multōs annōs eōs et cāsūs eōrum memoriā tenuērunt.

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<sup>1</sup> Publius Cornēlius Scīpiō received the cognomen Africānus for his victory over Hannibal and the Carthaginians in the Second Punic War (218-201 BCE)

<sup>2</sup> *nepōtes* descendants: Tiberius and Gaius were his grandsons by his daughter Cornelia, who had married Ti. Sempronius Gracchus (twice consul, he also held the censorship).

<sup>3</sup> elected in 133 BCE

<sup>4</sup> elected in 123 BCE