

Start here.

Famous Latin poets Catullus and Horace often portrayed friendship in their poetry. Catullus 13 and Odes III.8 showcase this theme neatly, manipulating the conventions of rhythmic lyric poetry to express strong personal views on the nature of friendship with both <sup>similar and different</sup> aspects.

Catullus 13, appearing to be an invitation to an, as of yet, unplanned party, is in actuality mocking this form and is instead rather a way for Catullus to introduce his friend Fabullus to Lesbia. Fabullus frames the poem, the vocative 'Fabulle' centred on both the opening and closing lines. Catullus places himself on the middle line, emphasising the relationship of the two men as their personalities intermix in friendship. This closeness is further reinforced by the 'tui' in apposition to 'Catulli': 'he is Fabullus'.

This charming light-hearted poem asks Fabullus to bring the accoutrements to dinner, listing 'non sine candida puella / et vino et sale et omnibus cachinnis' as Catullus is a humble modest poet: adhering to the conventions of poethood, Catullus

still shows his close relationship with Fabullus as he asks the friend to bring everything for the 'bonam atque magnum cenam'. One wouldn't ask the King to bring his own food, would they?

Bringing Lesbia in will be a reward for Fabullus as he will see her goddess-like aura and smell and it shall be so sweet that Catullus imagines he will want to be all nose, a humorous finale to this neat poem. The light-hearted tone of the poem helps to celebrate the two's friendship and its rhythms could easily be sung along with a lyre.

Horace's Odes III.8 establishes a party, similar to Catullus, and Maecenas is the guest. Praising his friend with the address 'docte sermones utriusque linguae' (note the enjambment from the previous stanza) Horace sets up a positive relationship between himself and Maecenas, more celebrating his survival than the friendship but pleased with it nonetheless. Although in an equal relationship, at his own party Horace commands his guests, yet not in a negative manner: the imperative

Additional writing space on back page.

verbs 'sume' (line 13), 'perfer' (line 15) and 'mitte' (line 17) do not convey control but more a genuine wish for Maecenas to set aside public worries and enjoy the party with his friend. The almost hyperbolic 'cyathos... centum' is not so much an exaggeration as it is a genuine hope for the two to drink long into the morning while spending good time together.

In contrast to Catullus, Horace does not mention himself by name and places Maecenas in the centre of the poem whereas Fabullus framed Catullus 13. This is a genuine invite to a party to celebrate Horace's survival, having nearly been buried with funeral rights by a falling tree. This contrasts to Catullus' piece.

However, both poems clearly celebrate the close relationships of the friendship pairs, and both poets praise their friends: 'docte sermones utriusque linguae' of Maecenas and 'venuste noster' of Fabullus. 'venustus' was a word strongly related to the Roman value of 'urbanitas' and thus Catullus lifts up the status of his friend.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.

Start here.

These two pieces use the creative and changeable nature of lyric poetry to celebrate the friendships of their authors. Although somewhat different in approach, the two poems praise the friend and show the intimacy of their relationships.