

*Macte animo! Generose puer sic itur ad astra!*¹

Literature 2

Ursa Major and Ursa Minor²

and

The Horatii and the Curiatii



1 Greece

Read: “The Great Bear and the Little Bear” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 3, Classics, “Legends of Greece and Rome” by G. H. Kupfer, no. 3. Here you will meet the goddess Juno (Ἥρα, Hera) the nymph Callisto (Καλλιστώ) and her son Arcas (Ἄρκας). In this story we see the petty, jealous, vengeful character of the Greek gods and goddesses! This is a feature of Greek legends. The legends seem to spring from exaggerated stories of the ancestors of the Greeks – perhaps those who, driven away from Babel by the confusion of language, first settled the Greek islands. Read this article: <https://creation.com/constellations-a-legacy-of-babel> for a fascinating account of the origins of constellation names. Try to see the Great Bear and the Little Bear constellations on a clear night. <http://stellarium.org/> is very helpful for finding your way around the night sky.

2 Rome

Read “The Horatii and the Curiatii.” You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 4, “Stories from the History of Rome” no.2. This is a story from the Kingdom period of Rome's history the time (753 BC–509 BC) when Rome was ruled by kings. Little is known about the this period but there are legends such as this one which was written down by the historian Livy (59BC-17AD) much later. Notice the emphasis on patriotic duty in this story which is typical of the legends that survive from Roman history. Find this event on the synchronological chart. From this you can see that occurred during the time that Manasseh was king of Judah.

1 Gird up your spirit! This is the way to the stars!

2 *Ursa* is the feminine form of the Latin word *Ursus* meaning a bear.