

VIII

Cerēs nōn in Siciliā erat, sed iam ad insulam properāvit. Nusquam erat Persephonē. Tum Dea, irāta et perterrita, passis capillis per terrās errābat. Per clīvōs altōs, per campōs lātōs, per silvās et agrōs, per terrās et caelum filiā vocābat. Frustrā agricolās, frustrā lūnam et stellās rogābat : “ Ubi est filia mea ? ” Sed neque agricolae neque lūna neque stellae puellam Deae monstrāvērunt. Nōn iam Deae miserae grātum erat frūmentum ; nōn iam herba erat in prātis, neque ūvae purpureae in vīneis, neque pōma in agris, quod Dea irāta neque herbam neque vīneās neque pōma cūrābat. Frustrā iuveni albī agrōs arābant. Nōn iam cibum in plaustris magnis ad oppida portābant.

Notice *ad oppida*. You might think that it should be *oppidis* (dative plural “to...”) but the pronoun *ad* meaning “to” is always followed by the accusative form of the noun.

Cibus, miser, neque and *rogo* should go into your notebook as they are all on the IGCSE vocabulary list.

cibus, -i, m.—food.
irātus, -a, -um—angry.
lūna, -ae, f.—moon.
miser, -era, -erum—unhappy.
monstro, 1—I show.
neque—and not, nor.
nusquam—nowhere.
passus, -a, -um—spread out-
dishevelled.
pōmum, -i, n.—fruit, apple.
purpureus, -a, -um—purple.
rogo, 1—I ask.
silva, -ae, f.—wood, forest.
stella, -ae, f.—star.

Ceres was not in Sicily but now she hurried to the island. Persephone was nowhere. Then the goddess, angry and terrified, with her hair dishevelled, was wandering [wandered] through the land. She called her daughter through high hills, through wide plains, through woods and fields, through earth and sky. In vain she asked the farmers, in vain [she asked] the moon and stars: "Where is my daughter?" But neither the farmers nor the moon nor the stars showed the girl to the goddess. Now corn was not pleasing to the miserable goddess; the grass was not in the meadows, nor the purple grapes in the vineyard, nor the apples in the fields because the angry goddess looked after neither the grass, nor the vines nor the apples. The white oxen ploughed the fields in vain. Now they were not carrying food in big carts to the towns.

nam—for.

patruus, -i, m.—uncle.

Persephonē, -ēs, f.—Persephone,
daughter of Ceres.

Plūto, -ōnis, m.—Pluto, king of
the Underworld.

prātum, -i, n.—meadow.

Sicilia, -ae, f.—Sicily.

statim—at once.

ūnus, -a, -um—one.

vehementer—exceedingly, very
· much.