



CHAPTER 7 (PP. 113–124)

GRAMMAR IN LANGUAGE FACTS

Third Declension Masculine and Feminine Nouns; Indirect Statement: Accusative and Infinitive

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Standards 1.1, 2.1

RRA 5

MEMORĀBILE DICTŪ VOCABULARY

ōdī – I hate



TEACHING TIP

The chapter image of Catullus and Lesbia can be used as a pre-reading activity. Ask students what the painting seems to tell us about the relationship between the poet standing on the left and Lesbia lying on the couch. After having read the chapter reading, students can again examine the depiction of Catullus and Lesbia and relate it to the Latin reading.



TEACHER BY THE WAY

The name of Lesbia, the lover of Catullus, is usually considered a pseudonym for Clodia, who was the second of three daughters born to Appius Claudius Pulcher. He served as consul in 79 BCE and won some victories in Macedonia while governor there. She thus belonged to the distinguished family of the Claudii in spite of her name, which she changed to the “popular” form as her brother did when he was adopted into a plebeian *gens* in 59 BCE. Her mother was the daughter of another patrician, Metellus Balaricus, and the ties between the two families were continued when Clodia married her cousin, Metellus Celer, the grandson of Balaricus.

Metellus was a brother-in-law of Pompey, whose policies he supported in concert with his brother, Metellus Nepos. He held the praetorship in 63 BCE and, in collusion with Caesar, terminated the sham trial of Rabirius. He was given the governorship of Cisalpine Gaul in 62 and was offered a special command against Catiline by Cicero. He supported his brother against the consul when Nepos and Caesar attempted to acquire a special command for Pompey against Catiline. While Nepos continued to support Pompey, Metellus, who had served as consul in 60 BCE, turned against him because the general divorced Mucia, the sister of Celer and Nepos, on the grounds of her licentious behavior while he had been campaigning against Mithridates. Nevertheless, Nepos himself remained a Pompeian although he did oppose the Senate for a while and protected Clodius, a strong Caesarian and his former brother-in-law, when Cicero returned from exile in 57. Like the on-again, off-again relationship of Pompey and Caesar, the Metelli of this period certainly demonstrate how family alliances affected politics and how fluid these political alliances could be.