



TEACHING TIP

Teachers may want to link the reading of this poem to the musical presentation of *Carmina Burāna* by Carl Orff, which was finished in 1936, and is now widely regarded as a classic and available in many recordings. The text of the *Carmina Burāna* poems selected by Orff for his cantata is also available.



TEACHER BY THE WAY

The poems are called *Carmina Burāna* because of the name given to the manuscript in which they are found. The so-called Burana Codex was found in 1803 in the Bavarian monastery of Benediktbeuern. In it there are copies of 228 poems, mostly by anonymous authors.

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Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.2

TRANSLATION OF THE LATIN PASSAGE

The Confession of Golias

Being in violent commotion with vehement rage inside <of me>, in bitterness I talk to my mind. Made from the material of a light element, I am like a leaf, over which the winds make play.

I am similar to a river, which never stays, but always flows; I am similar to a ship without sailor; I am similar to a bird.

Fetters do not hold me, a key does not hold me, I am looking for people similar to me, and I am joined to bad people.

I am not rich, but poor, who does not own anything. For I do not want to be a thief and I do not desire to cultivate fields. I am not delighted by serious things, I am delighted by sweet things and by jokes. It pleases me to think about beautiful girls and to worship love.

I walk on a wide road in the manner of the young, I involve myself in vices, forgetful of virtues. It does not please me to lack good foods. If I do not eat well, I cannot write poems. If, however, I eat well and drink a lot of wine, I will be able to write poems just as beautiful as the poet Ovid wrote.

My plan is to die in a wineshop, so that the wine(s) should be right next to the mouth of <me> dying.

You (pl.) are asking me why so many things have been said by me <myself> against me. <My> old life does not please me anymore, but I desire to have new morals. I do not love vices anymore, but I love virtues. I told all these things <just> so that I could change my life! I beg that you (pl.) spare me (be lenient with me).



TEACHING TIP

While English derivatives from the asterisked words (i.e., the Vocabulary to Learn) are the topic of Exercise 2 which will be found later in this chapter, there are some interesting derivatives from the non-asterisked words and some of these show how words change through the years. The teacher may choose to discuss these derivatives with the students.

- *adiungō* – adjoin, adjunct
- *aestuō* – estuary

The boiling violence of the water at the river's mouth where it meets the sea is called an estuary.