

The original function of a jester was to recite (produce) a tale. By the sixteenth century he was a buffoon in a prince's court.

- *maximus* (superlative of *magnus*) – maxim, maximum, maximize

The word maxim, which refers to a general truth or principle, originated in the ML phrase *maxima prōpositiō*, a phrase meaning an axiom.

- *merēris* (from *mereō* = to deserve, earn, win, acquire) – demerit, meretricious, merit, meritorious

The word meretricious has a pejorative cast, referring to something vulgar or tawdry, based on deception or insincerity. It is derived from *meretrīx*, the Latin word for “harlot.”

- *minimus* (superlative of *parvus* = small) – minimize, ministerial, ministration, ministry, minister, minstrel

The word minister refers to a helper, a tool, a servant, someone who gives care or aid. Horace uses it in *Odes* 1.38.6 (*ministrum*) to refer to the slave who brings the wine. It denotes someone in a lesser, or lower, position.

The word minstrel is derived from the Latin *minister* through LL *ministeriālis*, which could refer to a special type of servant like a singer or jester, and then through OF *menestrel* and ME (*menistral*).

- *miserior* (comparative of *miser* = wretched, poor, pitiful) – commiseration, miserable, misery, miser

A miser lives in wretched conditions in order to hoard money.

- *pulcherrimus* (superlative of *pulcher* = beautiful, handsome, glorious) – pulchritude, pulchritudinous

- *summa* (from *summus* = highest, top of, last, the end of) – consommé, consummate, sum, summarize, summit, summary

Consommé (from *cum* = together, and *summus* = the end of) through the French *consommer* (to finish, boil down) is a clear soup made by boiling meat, bones, and sometimes vegetables down completely to a clear liquid.

## PAGE 108

### ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. The daughters who claimed to esteem him the most earned the highest ranking husbands.
2. The two older daughters let the emperor down, because they sent no significant help to the father when he was defeated and exiled.
3. She was made the heir to the empire.



#### TEACHING TIP

Ask the students in what ways the photograph is intended to evoke the Latin text quoted in its caption. This offers an opportunity to review their understanding of the Latin excerpt. Teachers may have students present their responses in Latin. Students can compose a brief essay in Latin on this topic as a homework activity.