

VOCABULARY

concentus concentus *m* singing, tune, music
eburn•us –a –um *adj* ivory
gubern•o (1) to rule, control
hinc *adv* from this place
mel•os –i n song, melody
modulam•en –inis n melody
occidu•us –a –um *adj* western, setting sun
plectr•um –i n plectrum, lyre
rar•us –a –um *adj* rare, unusual

GRAMMAR AND WORD USE QUESTIONS

1. In line 29 and in line 31, what two words does Landívar use for melody?
2. Considering related English words such as “mellow” and “modulate,” what qualities of music is he suggesting?
3. Explain the metonymy in line 35.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In line 30, what two adjectives describe the things he has to tell?
2. Cite the Latin and translate four words that describe the city of Mexico.
3. What event drastically changed the city’s status?
4. What is the situation now?

POETRY QUESTIONS

1. Copy lines 28–31 on paper and scan them. Read them aloud.
2. Translate lines 28–36 into English blank verse. Since blank verse lines are shorter than dactylic hexameter lines, there will be a greater number of English lines, and some words can be skipped.

For example: Lines 28–29

*O power making music with your pick
 And teaching Muses melody divine*