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Catiline's War and The Jugurthine War

Sallust (Gaius Sallustius Crispus) · *c. 41–40 B.C.* · *John Selby Watson*

It becomes all men, who desire to excel other animals, to strive, to the utmost of their power, not to pass through life in obscurity, like the beasts of the field. Watson's English gives both monographs complete: the Conspiracy of Catiline and the Jugurthine War.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What happens to a republic when ambition and luxury unteach the old virtues, and can a historian who has left public life still tell the truth about a conspiracy and a distant war?

"It becomes all men, who desire to excel other animals,"
The Conspiracy of Catiline, the opening

The translation is John Selby Watson, PG #7990, both monographs complete, with the translator's notes. Quote the histories, not the notes, and do not include footnote numbers in a quotation (they sit after "animals," "power," and "obscurity" in the opening). The first work is the Conspiracy of Catiline; the second is the Jugurthine War. Map both, and keep them distinct. A pair of short, severe Roman histories, for older students, of conspiracy, corruption, and a war in Africa—not a children's tale of Roman virtue only.

KEY CHARACTERS

Catiline
The noble of the first monograph, whose conspiracy is the first crisis.

Cicero, and the Senate
The consul and the body that must meet the conspiracy in the city.

Jugurtha
The African prince of the second monograph, whose war tests Roman command.

Sallust
The historian of both monographs, who writes after leaving public life.

NOT IN OBSCURITY

> *"It becomes all men, who desire to excel other animals,"*
> Catiline, the opening

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Not to Pass Through Life in Obscurity

CATILINE, THE OPENING

It becomes all men who desire to excel other animals to strive not to pass through life in obscurity, like the beasts of the field. The moral porch is already a judgment on a later Rome.

- The opening clause is exact; stop before the footnote number.
- The contrast of mind and body is the next movement of the preface.
- This is Watson's English.

> *"It becomes all men, who desire to excel other animals,"*
> Catiline, the opening

02

A Conspiracy at Rome

THE FIRST MONOGRAPH

Catiline's character, the associates, the speeches, and the consul who will not sleep through it. The first work is a short crisis in the city.

- Keep the first monograph distinct from the Jugurthine War.
- The speeches are Sallust's composed versions; teach them as such.
- For older students; the corruption is the subject, not a decoration.

03

A Close in the City

THE END OF CATILINE

The first monograph has a complete close in the field and in the city. Then the volume turns to Africa.

- Do not blend the two wars into one plot.
- Cite Watson, not another English Sallust.
- The translator's notes are not the history.

04

The Jugurthine War

THE SECOND MONOGRAPH

A war in Africa, a prince's cunning, and a Roman command that is not always clean. The second work has its own beginning, middle, and close.

- Map both works; keep them distinct.
- The questions of bribery and of command are the moral center.
- For older students.

05

Both Monographs, Complete

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #7990 and the site EPUB contain both works complete, with notes. Quote the histories, in stretches that appear in both, without footnote numbers.

- John Selby Watson; both monographs complete.
- A pair of short, severe Roman histories, for older students.
- Not a children's tale of Roman virtue only.

Virtue and Luxury | A Conspiracy | A Republic Tested | A Distant War | Two Monographs

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. The translation is John Selby Watson, Project Gutenberg #7990, both monographs complete, with the translator's notes. Quote the histories, not the notes. The opening is exact: "It becomes all men, who desire to excel other animals," Footnote numbers sit after "animals," "power," and "obscurity" in this file; quote only a continuous stretch without them.
2. The first work is the Conspiracy of Catiline; the second is the Jugurthine War. Map both, and keep them distinct. A pair of short, severe Roman histories, for older students, not a children's tale of Roman virtue only.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the John Selby Watson, Project Gutenberg #7990 (Conspiracy of Catiline and the Jugurthine War, trans. John Selby Watson, London: Henry G. Bohn), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/sallust-catiline-and-jugurtha/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.