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Eclogues and Georgics

Virgil · *c. 42–29 BC (this English, 1921) · James Rhoades*

Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse your silvan ditties: I from my sweet fields even now depart. So Eclogue I begins, in James Rhoades's English, Project Gutenberg #230 and #232. Later the Georgics open: What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star, Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod—such are my themes. For grades 9–12. This file is both works. Quote Rhoades, not a later prose crib only. One map cannot teach every eclogue and every book of the Georgics.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Rhoades's English of both the Eclogues and the Georgics —opened by Tityrus reclining, and Meliboeus departing, then by the cornfield and Maecenas —rather than as the Aeneid, or as a later crib only?

"Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse Your"
Eclogue I

The hosted file is Virgil's Eclogues and Georgics in James Rhoades's English, Project Gutenberg #230 and #232 (the Georgics under his name; the Eclogues identified with his Oxford 1921 text). It is not the Aeneid. Eclogue I opens: Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse your silvan ditties: I from my sweet fields, and home's familiar bounds, even now depart. Exiled from home am I; while, Tityrus, you sit careless in the shade. Later the Georgics open: What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star, Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod, or marry elm with vine—such are my themes. Teach both openings, for grades 9–12, and name which work you are in. Quote Rhoades, not a later prose crib only. One map cannot teach every eclogue and every book of the Georgics.

KEY CHARACTERS

Tityrus
Who, in Eclogue I, reclines and rehearses silvan ditties on the slender oat

Meliboeus
Who, in the same eclogue, departs from his sweet fields, exiled from home

Maecenas
To whom, in the Georgics, the themes of sod, vine, steer, and bees are named

James Rhoades
The translator of this hosted English; name him

HOW TO BEGIN THESE TWO WORKS

> *"Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse Your"*
> Eclogue I

> *"What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star"*
> The Georgics

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Reclining, on the Slender Oat

ECLOGUE I

Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse your silvan ditties. The first eclogue begins with a reclining singer, and a slender oat, before exile is named.

- Keep "slender oat" and "silvan ditties." The line is spoken to Tityrus.
- 9–12.
- Rhoades's English.
- Not the Aeneid.

> *"Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse Your"*
> Eclogue I

02

I from My Sweet Fields Depart

ECLOGUE I

I from my sweet fields even now depart. Exiled from home am I; while, Tityrus, you sit careless in the shade. The first speaker is already leaving.

- Keep "sweet fields" and, if you go on, "exiled from home." If an apostrophe in "home's" fails, stop at "sweet fields."
- 9–12.
- Quote this wording.
- Meliboeus and Tityrus, as the eclogue names them.

> *"Your silvan ditties: I from my sweet fields, And"*
> Eclogue I

03

What Makes the Cornfield Smile

THE GEORGICS, OPENING

What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star, Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod. The second work in the file has its own opening. Name it when you come to it.

- Keep "cornfield smile" and "turn the sod."
- 9–12.
- The Georgics, not Eclogue I.
- Quote Rhoades.

> *"What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star"*
> The Georgics, opening

04

Such Are My Themes

THE GEORGICS, OPENING

Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod, or marry elm with vine; how tend the steer; what proof of patient trial serves for thrifty bees—such are my themes. The subjects are listed, as this English gives them.

- Keep "such are my themes," and Maecenas.
- 9–12.
- A second work in the same file.
- One map cannot teach every book.

> *"Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod Or"*
> The Georgics, opening

05

Rhoades, Both Works, Not the Aeneid

THE EDITION

James Rhoades, PG #230 and #232, Eclogues and Georgics together. Not the Aeneid. For grades 9–12. Quote this English, not a later prose crib only. Name which work you are in. One map cannot teach every eclogue and every book of the Georgics.

- Name Rhoades, and both works.
- 9–12.
- Eclogue I first, then the Georgics.
- Quote this wording.

> *"Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse Your"*
> Eclogue I

A slender oat, and silvan ditties

Sweet fields, and an exile

A cornfield, and a turned sod

Two works in one file

Rhoades's English, named

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. This file is both the Eclogues and the Georgics, in James Rhoades's English, PG #230 and #232—not the Aeneid. Name which work you are in.
2. Eclogue I: "Reclining, on the slender oat rehearse your silvan ditties: I from my sweet fields even now depart." Exiled from home, while Tityrus sits careless in the shade.
3. The Georgics: "What makes the cornfield smile; beneath what star, Maecenas, it is meet to turn the sod… Such are my themes."
4. For grades 9–12. Quote Rhoades, not a later prose crib only. One map cannot teach every eclogue and every book of the Georgics.

Quotations are verbatim from the James Rhoades, Project Gutenberg #230, #232, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/virgil-eclogues-and-georgics/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.