

**2020 NJCL  
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION  
Level II--Male Character**

**A Deceitful King**

Sīsyphus rēx per mercātūram dīves fīēbat: erat autem omnium hominum pessimus.

Ab uxōre suā petīverat nē sē mortuum sepelīret: mortuus autem apud Plūtōnem illam accūsāvit quod ita neglexerat et ab eō petīvit ut sibi licēret ad terram redīre. Cum autem redīssset, "Nōn iterum," inquit, "ad Mānēs dēscendam: sīc immortalis fīam."

Ā Mercuriō tamen vī ablātus gravissimō est suppliciō pūnītus. Nam saxum ingēns semper ad summum collem portāre cōgēbātur: quotiēns autem ad summum vēnerat, saxum ad īmum collem volvēbātur isque ad summum iterum portāre coactus est.

“Sisyphus,” Hillard and Botting, *Elementary Latin Translation Book*, p. 95, abridged

King Sisyphus became rich through trade, but he was the worst of all men.

He had asked his wife not to bury him when he died, but when he died he accused her before Pluto because she had so neglected her promise, and he asked Pluto to allow him to go back to the world above. When he had returned, however, he said, "Not again will I go down to the Underworld: thus I will become immortal."

Carried off forcefully by Mercury, however, he was punished by the most serious penalty. For he was always forced to carry a huge rock to the top of a hill; but as often as he had come to the top, the rock rolled back down to the bottom of the hill, and he was forced to carry it again to the top.

