

THE TAEDA

The MJCL Newsletter • October 2025

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About the TAEDA

The TAEDA (the Latin word for 'torch') is the Michigan JCL's official newsletter. It is written by the students and for the students! We hope to educate others about ancient Greek and Roman culture and to connect the classics to our current world.

This October issue of the TAEDA includes a Q&A with our MJCL Vice President, Owen Stropoli. It contains a book review of Dante's Inferno, an update on the MJCL Convention Art Contest, and the answer to the August CONNECTE! Finally, there are two fun games: a Choose Your Own Adventure in the underworld and MOIRAI'S STRANDS. We hope you enjoy! HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!

--The MJCL Officers

Announcements

- Thanks to all who participated in October's Toga Bowling!
- The TAEDA is looking for student-written articles about topics related to the classics. If you're interested, please email michiganmjcl@gmail.com

Q&A with Our Vice President: Owen Stropoli

Introduction:

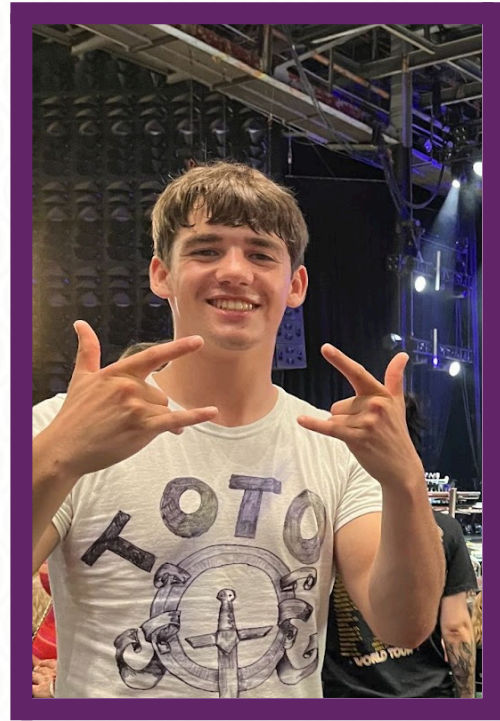
Salve! Mihi nomen est Owen (or Tiberius Furius Formosus if you're feeling Roman). I'm a senior, going into my fourth year of Latin, and want to study psychology in college, maybe even taking some classes in classics.

Q: Why did you decide to take Latin?

A: I decided to take Latin because I've always loved Greek mythology, especially after reading Percy Jackson. At the time, I was also discerning becoming a priest, so I thought taking Latin made sense for that.

Q: What's your favorite part of MJCL?

A: My favorite part of MJCL is being a part of a group whose members are zealous about the Roman language, mythology, and culture. Those who take Latin are now a niche group, so I think that gathering together at conferences and synchronizing individual activities is a fun way to share this interest with others.



Q: Do you have any fun facts?

A: Staying on the topic of Latin, last school year I went on a trip to Rome, Florence, Paris, and Brussels with Latin students of Brother Rice and Mercy. It was an amazing trip, and I gained a lot of weight!

Q: Which Roman god/goddess do you relate to the most?

A: I think the Roman god Janus is a cool representation of the human condition. He is his own contradiction. In a way, I think we all are sometimes our own contradictions. We can be both courageous and cowardly, intelligent and dopey, and virtuous and selfish on the same day.

Dante's Inferno Book Review

For October, my teacher asked me to read Dante's Inferno and do a review on it. As a student of Latin, I have to say I have qualms with Dante. With the Divine Comedy, he created vulgar Italian, and started the shift away from all texts being written in Latin. Because of him, every man can now read in his own language, and the acquiring of knowledge isn't reserved for a small group of elites. What the heck, Dante! However, what really outrages me is how he incorporated Greco-Roman mythology and writings, Catholic Tradition, and politics contemporary to him in such an artful way. What benefit does incorporating already known classical myths have on relaying the point of your own story? And, why would you honor philosophers and writers of antiquity in a work that's a descendant of theirs? I think he's just adding things in to make himself sound smart, which is pretentious! It also hardly seems appropriate to subject politicians you hate to literary torture. So, unless you want a pivotal story that masterfully blends antiquity and Christian tradition, while also painting a grim vision of hell where many politicians and people of myths suffer for their wrongs, DON'T READ DANTE'S INFERNO!

MJCL Convention Art Contest

Theme:

Nature & Growth-Related Classical Myths

Some examples include: Demeter/Ceres, Persephone/Proserpina, and Dionysus/Bacchus. You can choose any Greek or Roman Myth, so be creative!

The MJCL Art Contest is open to all MJCL students, regardless of experience.

Accepted mediums include:

- Cartoons and greeting cards
- Charts, illustrated quotations, maps
- Drawing and painting
- Handicrafts
- Photography
- Graphic arts

Remember to bring your art to the MJCL Convention!

Choose Your Own Adventure

The MJCL officers were on their way to meet Hades. decided to take a break and accidentally sat on Hephaestus's chair. Now, they are stuck in the underworld with the MJCL torch. You must find and release them from the chair so that they can arrive at their meeting with Hades on time. Do you accept this quest? (This is online. Check the MJCL website for a digital version of the TAEDA.)

Link to the Choose Your Own Adventure:

[Choose Your Own Adventure](#)

MOIRAI'S STRANDS

Theme: Land Down Under (find 7 words)

(Careful! Empty spots can be a part of the answer!)

C	A	E	A	I	N
U	E	S	A	M	O
S	U	D	E	H	S
F	R	R	I	S	
W		E	D	N	U
	O	M	U	C	H
D	R	S	I	A	R
L	Y	L	E	N	O

Link to the online version: [MOIRAI'S STRANDS](#)

Send your answers (name and school) to michiganmjcl@gmail.com

The first two correct answers will receive a special prize!

AUGUST CONNECTE! ANSWER AND WINNER

