



Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *Ceyx and
Alcyone*

Section F

For examination in 2022 and 2023



Section F

All hope is lost

Notes and Discussion

Ovid's vivid description of the fears of those shipwrecked at sea harks back to Alcyone's fears for her husband. The sailors say that **those who would have proper funerals were the lucky ones**. The Romans believed that proper funeral rites were essential otherwise the restless spirit would not make the journey to the Underworld. In the absence of a body (such as in the event of a shipwreck), some rites were still carried out in the hope that it might be enough (see note on A15 for an example of a tomb without a body).

Ceyx himself is amongst those described as **holding out their arms in vain to the sky which he could not see**. This begging style of praying to the gods can be seen in statues such as this one: <http://ancientrome.ru/art/artworken/img.htm?id=3643>. It is noteworthy that neither Lucifer nor Aeolus intervene to save Ceyx – Ovid does not suggest that he deserves his fate in any way, it is simply the capricious nature of gods.

Questions

1. Who might be expected to help Ceyx?