

4 To be read after *Latin for Reading* L.26

Jason is charged to find and bring back the famous **Golden Fleece**, guarded by a fiery dragon. When he advertises the trip, many heroes volunteer to accompany him.

Itaque Peliās Jāsonem ad finēs Colchōrum prōgredī jussit eīque labōrem difficillimum imposuit. "Est vellus aureum," inquit, "in finibus Colchōrum. Ut lūna et sidera in caelō serēnō, ita vellus aureum in arbore altō suō lūmine fulget.

Ā paucīs tamen vīsum est. Nam maximā cūrā custodītur ā dracōne, quō nēmō est ferōcior. Nihil aliud tam ferōciter custodītur quam vellus aureum ā dracōne, quod nihil cārius est. Si inveniēs et reddēs, rēgnum erit tuum." Jāsōn, quia sōlus proficiscī nōluit, nuntiōs in omnēs partēs Graeciae dīmīsit. Conveniēbant, quōs aut reī novitās aut spēs gloriae movēbat. Traditum est, in hōc heroūm numerō fuisse et Herculem et Orpheum et fratrēs pulcherrimae Helenae, dē quā bellum Trojānum pugnātum est.

Vocabulary

arbor, arboris, f. tree
cārus, -a, -um dear, precious
conveniō (4) to come together, to assemble
dimittō (3) send forth
dracō, dracōnis, m. snake, dragon
ferox, -ōcis, adj. courageous, wild
ferociter, adv. fiercely
finis, finis, m. border
gloria, -ae, f. fame, glory
heros, -ois, m. demigod, hero

inquit _____ says
novitās, -ātis, f. newness, novelty
numerus, -ī, m. a group
nuntius, -ī, m. messenger
progredior, progredī, progressus sum to go forward
proficiscor, proficisī, profectus sum to set out, to start out

tradō (3) to report, relate
vellus, velleris, n. a fleece