

Latin Literature: Famous First Lines

- ***Annales*, by Ennius:** *Moribus antiquis stat res Romana virisque* (“On ancient customs and men the Roman state stands firm”).
- ***In Catilinam I*, by Cicero:** *Quo usque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? Quam diu etiam furor iste tuus nos eludet?* (“How long, Catiline, will you abuse our patience? How long is that madness of yours still to mock us?”)
- ***De Bello Gallico*, by Caesar:** *Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur* (“Gallia as a whole is divided into three parts, one of which the Belgae inhabit, another the Aquitani inhabit, the third those who in their own language are the Celtae, all are called our Gallia”).
- ***De Rerum Natura*, by Lucretius:** *Aeneadum genetrix, hominum divumque voluptas* (“Mother of Rome, delight of Gods and men”).
- ***Eclogues (Bucolics)*, by Vergil:** *Tityre, tu patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi.*
- ***Georgics*, by Vergil:** *Quid faciat laetas segetes, quo sidere terram.*
- ***Ab Urbe Condita*, by Livy:** *Iam primum omnium satis constat* (“Now first, it is generally agreed”).
- ***Aeneid*, by Vergil:** *Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris Italiam fato profugus Lavinaeque venit litora* (“I sing of war and a man. From the sea coast of Troy in early days he came to Italy by fate”).
- ***Ars Poetica*, by Horace:** *Humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam.*
- ***Metamorphoses*, by Ovid:** *In nova fert animus mutatas dicere formas corpora* (“Now I shall tell of things that change, new being out of old”).
- ***De Bello Civile (Pharsalia)*, by Lucan:** *Bella per Emathios plus quam civilian campos.*
- ***Satyricon*, by Petronius:** *Num alio genere furiarum de clamatore.*
- ***Annales*, by Tacitus:** *Urbem Romam a principio reges habuere; libertatem et consulatum L. Brutus instituit.*
- ***Aureus Asinus (Metamorphoses)*, by Apuleius:** *At ego tibi sermon isto Milesio varias fabulas conseram auresque tuas benivolas lepido susurro permulceam.*