

Vice and Virtue

Assignment 19

- *prayer*. Continue to pray for your fellow students. It is good to pray at the beginning of the day, before you start your work. The 17th-century English minister Thomas Brooks once gave an anecdote of the ancient church father, Origin, saying, “Origen going to comfort and encourage a martyr that was to be tormented, was himself apprehended by the officers, and constrained either to offer to the idols, or to have his body abused . . . ; of which hard choice, to save his life, he bowed unto the idol; but afterwards, making a sad confession of his foul fact, he said, ‘That he went forth that morning before he had been with God in his closet,’ and so peremptorily concludes, “that his neglect of prayer was the cause of his falling into that great sin.”



- *poetry memorization*. Poetry Memorization: Stanzas 1–2 of Whittier’s “The Barefoot Boy.”
- *poetry and poetics*. Complete Poetry and Poetics 19.
- *textbook*. Complete Lesson 19 in your study guide after doing the accompanying reading. This week’s reading includes an account of a favorite horse of George Washington’s mother, an account of Abraham Lincoln as a merchant, and a fable rendered by the French poet Jean de la Fontaine.
- *picture*. I am very fond of the above picture, which is of Regulus (born ca. 307 B.C.), one of the naval commanders in the First Punic Wars. You read about him in our lesson last week. The First Punic War was the first of three wars between Carthage and Rome. You will be reading about Regulus in this week’s lesson. What is the artist trying to express in the picture? Notice that the lighting of the painting draws the eye toward the center of the picture, in which Regulus is standing to depart. Notice also that the arms and hands of the people form several circles around Regulus: the largest of the three circles includes the darkened crooked arm of the slave on the very left of the painting. At the center of the circle is Regulus’s own hand. The variety of expressions on the faces in the painting, including that of the Roman statesman, add further interest to the painting. Look in particular at the expression of the seated Roman slave (as well as the position of his body, hands and arms, which are in shackles). What do you think is being communicated by his expression? The early 19th-century painter Cornelis Cels was born in the Duchy of Brabant, which now lies Holland and Belgium, my wife’s native country. Cels studied art in Brussels. One of this artist’s most famous paintings, “Descent from the Cross” is found in St. Paul’s Cathedral (right) in Antwerp, where my wife’s grandfather and grandmother were married.



Long Range Assignment

- The book report will be due *the third week of March*.