

**Patsy RICKS**

**"Arise and Speak": Resurrecting Cicero in Today's Latin Classroom"**

In January '04, I began teaching the Advanced Placement *Pro Caelio* to ten junior and senior high school students. I wanted them to experience the Cicero I knew from my own personal reading of his opera: a Cicero who was the dazzling performer in the Roman Forum and master of the pun, the witty jab, the clever twist of words, not the Cicero I had too often met in the classroom pressed between the pages of his books buried in tricolons and praeteritios. In order to offer a more complete picture of a living Cicero, I determined that the students must first read and comprehend the entire text of the *Pro Caelio*--not just the portion selected for the AP syllabus. In my paper I will demonstrate methods of sight reading that enabled the students to read the *Pro Caelio* within two months.

Knowledge of the historical events of the late Republic and the participants in the *Pro Caelio* I knew to be essential in order for my students to understanding the oration. Publius Clodius Pulcher and Clodia Metelli on the side of the prosecution and Marcus Crassus, Caelius, and Cicero on the defense are some of the most fascinating characters in the late Republic. T. P. Wiseman presents a lively discussion of both the case and its characters in *Catullus and His World: A Reappraisal*. More specific information about Clodius can be found in Jeffrey Tatum's book *The Patrician Tribune: Publius Clodius Pulcher*. Anthony Trollope's *Life of Cicero* offers a balanced view of Cicero and his works from a Victorian view point and helps teacher and student realize that we can only perceive the events of the past through the viewpoint of our own present. Pictures of Arpinum and the Roman Forum create a setting for the events and the orator. In the second part of my paper, I will illustrate through Power Point visuals the presentation of the historical background.

But most important to me is that my students visualize the great orator in action. Cicero himself gave me some guidelines in the *Pro Caelio* through his prosopopoeia of Appius Claudius Caecus. First it is necessary to understand Cicero's methods of delivery. I have found Jon Hall and Robin Bond's video of *Performing Cicero's Speeches* to be an extremely valuable visual aid in understanding gestures, tone, and mood. Robin Bond gives a convincing delivery of Cicero's prosopopoeia of Appius Claudius in moving from an initial comic tone to a more serious conclusion. The comedy draws the viewers attention, the dramatic ending drives the point home. The students are able to model their own interpretations and delivery based on the scholarly but entertaining presentation in the video. Katherine Geffcken's *Comedy in the Pro Caelio* is a useful guide to viewing Cicero's linking Caelius, Clodia, and Caelius' father to the stock characters in Roman comedy thereby mocking the serious allegations charged to Caelius. In this third part of my paper, I will show through Power Point video student-performed excerpts from the oration.