

READING 35 *Martial wrote several epigrams about not wanting to share his own poems lest his listeners ask him to hear their own work. The first two selections here are on this theme, with the first addressed to Theodorus and the second to Pontilianus, probably a fictitious friend, who is the subject of the third selection too.*

A. Nōn dōnem tibi cūr meōs libellōs

Ōrantī totiēns et exigentī,

Mīrāris, Theodōre? Magna causa est:

Dōnēs tū mihi nē tuōs libellōs.

B. Cūr nōn mittō meōs tibi, Pontīliane, libellōs?

nē mihi tū mittās, Pontīliane, tuōs.

C. Mentīris, crēdō: recitās mala carmina, laudō:

Cantās, cantō: bibis, Pontīliane, bibō:

Pēdis, dissimulō: gemmā vīs lūdere, vincor:

Rēs ūna est, sine mē quam facis, et taceō.

Nīl tamen omnīno praestās mihi. “Mortuus,” inquis,

“Accipiam bene tē.” Nīl volō: sed morere.

Vocabulary:

dōnō, -āre	to give	gemma, -ae, f.	gem, precious stone
libellus, -ī m.	little book		used as a piece in a
exigō, -ere	to demand		game like chess
recitō, -āre	to recite, read aloud	ludō, -ere	to play
cantō, -āre	to sing	nīl omnīno	nothing at all
pēdō, -ere	to fart	praestō, -āre	to provide, show
dissimulō, -āre	to pretend not to	accipiō bene	to treat well
	notice; conceal, hide		