13. HERCULES AND THE SERPENTS

Fresco from Pompeii. The infant Hercules strangles serpents while his parents watch. Jupiter's eagle hovers above, protectively.

Īphiclēs, frāter Herculis, magnā vōce **exclāmāvit**;
at Herculēs ipse, fortissimus puer, nullō modō territus **est**.
Parvīs manibus serpentēs statim **prehendit**,
et colla eārum magnā vī **compressit**.
Tālī modō serpentēs ā puerō interfectae **sunt**.
Alcmēna autem, māter puerōrum, clāmōrem **audīverat**
et marītum suum ē somnō **excitāverat**.
Ille lūmen **accendit**
et gladium suum **arripuit**;
tum ad puerōs **properāvit**,
sed,
ubi ad locum **vēnit**,
rem mīram **vīdit**;
Herculēs enim **rīdēbat**
et serpentēs mortuās **dēmōnstrābat**.

Quaestiones:

What did Iphicles do after the serpents moved the shield?

Quo modo (How) sunt serpentes interfectae?

What did Alcmena do when she heard the shouting?

What three things did her husband then do?

Quam rem miram vidit ille, ubi in cubiculum venit?

Athena, left, watches over the infant hero Hercules while Iphicles, his mortal brother, reaches for his mother and father.