



Eduqas GCSE Latin
Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *Ceyx and
Alcyone*

Section H

For examination in 2022 and 2023



Section H

Alcyone sees Ceyx in the waves

Notes and Discussion

In this dramatic scene, the body of Ceyx slowly drifts closer and closer to the shoreline, mirroring the scene in Section C when he slowly sailed out of sight at the beginning of his journey. The different stages of Alcyone's recognition are prolonged: first she sees '**something like a body**', then '**it was a body**' but she was '**unaware of who the ship-wrecked man was**'. The gradual realisation continues until the final tragic moment: '**it is him**'. The reader, of course, has known all along. The pathos is emphasised by Alcyone's ironic lament, whilst looking at the as yet unknown dead man, for '**whoever your wife is**'. Once she understands, her grief is physical as she '**tore at her face, her hair and her clothes**'.

Questions

1. How does Ovid make this scene tense for the reader?
2. Think back to Section B. How has Ceyx's promise come true?