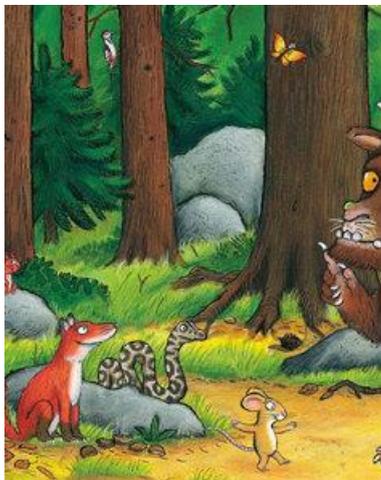


## multum in parvo



If you have ever seen that little motto before, it will have been driving through England's smallest county, Rutland. In our A Level Latin class, we have been exploring how it might just as aptly be applied to Latin elegiac poetry. Consider, for example, how Catullus says 'a lot in a little' in his shortest and most famous elegy:

odi et amo. quare id faciam, fortasse requiris.  
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.

*I hate and I love. Perhaps you ask why I do  
this. I do not know, but I feel it happening and I  
am in torment.*

You don't need many words – especially in Latin, which is so superbly concise in expression – to convey an awful lot of very powerful emotion. But elegiac verse can be used to express much lighter themes, too. The picture above gives a clue to the monster described in immaculate elegiac couplets here: can you identify him as quickly as the A Level Latin class did? Scroll down to check if you were correct.

Tip: find colours and English derivations from many of the parts of the body named in the description.

faucibus horrendis et saevis unguibus ingens,  
dentibus est quoniam belua terrificis?  
nodosis genibus digitisque est torquibus atrox;  
tincta veneno imis pustula naribus est.  
igne micant oculi rutilo; longa atraque lingua est;  
spinis in dorso bestia purpureis.

Mrs Alexandra Nightingale

# High School & Sixth Form



(Answer : The Gruffalo)