

▶ EXERCISE 6

The following passage is a ghost story adapted from another letter by Pliny the Younger (Book 7.27), in which he describes a supernatural event that happened in Athens. Translate the following passage into English. New vocabulary is listed below the passage.

Erat Athēnīs māgna domus sed infāmis. Noctū ibi audiēbātur vinculōrum sonus. Deinde cōspiciēbātur fōrma terribilis. Erat senex macer et squālidus. Capillus ēius horrēbat. Vincula gerēbat. Multī, quī in eō aedificiō habitābant, mortuī inveniēbantur. Nēmō causam clādis intellēxit. Tandem domus est dēserta: solum id mōnstrum ibi habitābat. Athēnodōrus, philosophus, causam malī intellegere cupīvit. Ibi noctū manēre dēcrēvit. Omnia tunc erant quiēta. Philosophus in tenebrīs manēbat librīsque studēbat. Tunc sonum audīvit vinculōrum. Erat autem Athēnodōrō animus fortis. Philosophus oculōs in librōs intendit, nec mōnstrum cōspexit, quod ad eum appropinquāvit. Tandem fōrmam mōnstrī terribilem vīdit. Senex macer et squālidus digitō aliquid ostendere vidēbātur, deinde ēvānuī. Postrīdiē philosophus iussit locum effodī, quem umbra senis ostendit. Ibi erant ossa hominis mortuī catēnīs vīncta.

aedificium, aedificiī, n. – building
aliquid – something
appropinquō, appropinquāre, appropinquāvī,
 appropinquātum – to approach
Athēnīs – in Athens
Athēnodōrus, Athēnodōrī, m. – Athenodorus
capillus, capillī, m. – hair
catēna, catēnae, f. – chain
dēsertus, dēserta, dēsertum – deserted
domus, domūs, f. – house
effodiō, effodere, effodī, effossus – to dig up
ēvānēscō, ēvānēscere, ēvānuī, ——— – to vanish
horreō, horrēre, horruī, ——— – to stick straight out
infāmis, infāme – of evil repute
intendō, intendere, intendī, intantum – to focus on, to
 concentrate on

inveniō, invenīre, invēnī, inventum – to discover
macer, macra, macrum – emaciated, very thin
mōnstrum, mōnstrī, n. – monster, apparition
mortuus, mortua, mortuum – dead
nēmō (nominative) – no one
noctū (adv.) – at night
os, ossis, n. – bone
philosophus, philosophī, m. – philosopher
postrīdiē (adv.) – on the next day
quiētus, quiēta, quiētum – quiet
sōlus, sōla, solum – only, alone
sonus, sonī, m. – sound
squālidus, squālida, squālidum – filthy
terribilis, terribile – terrible, fearful
umbra, umbrae, f. – shadow, ghost
vīnctus, vīncta, vīnctum – bound