

Figure 1. Example of a bipartite epigram (Mart. 1.110)

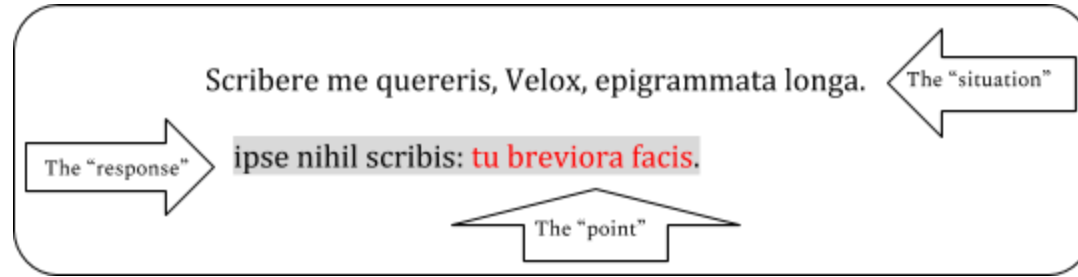
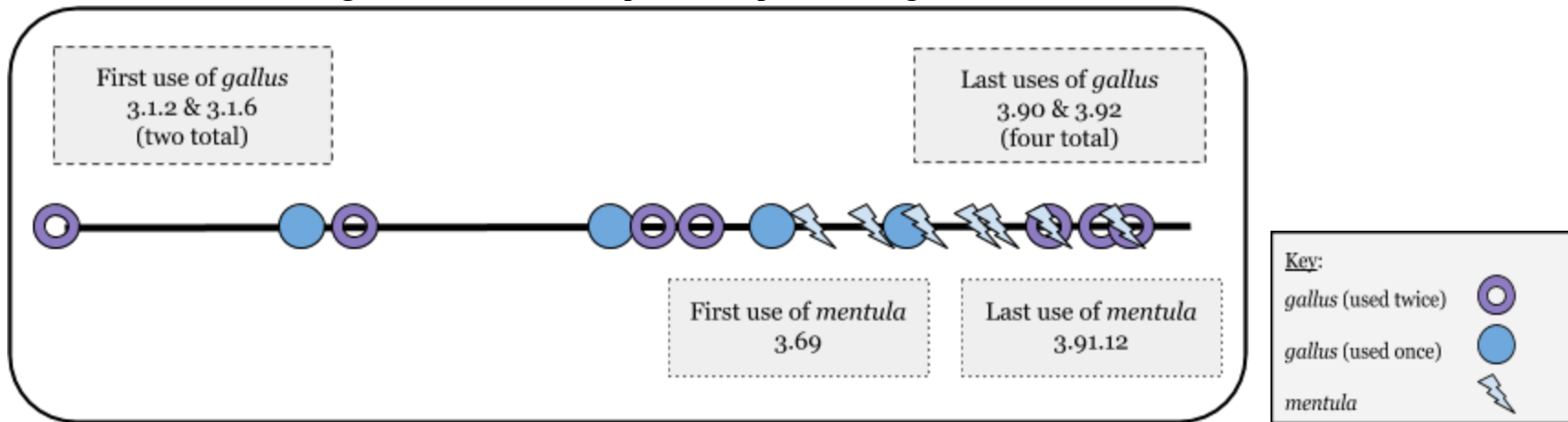


Figure 2. The relationship between poems with *gallus* and *mentula* in book 3



Texts and Translations

3.1

Hoc tibi quidquid id est longinquis mittit ab oris
Gallia Romanae nomine dicta togae.
 Hunc legis et laudas librum fortasse priorem:
 Illa vel haec mea sunt, quae meliora putas.
 Plus sane placeat domina qui natus in urbe est:
 Debet enim **Gallum** vincere **verna liber**.

3.1

This - whatever it is - the **Gaul** named for the Roman toga sends to you from far-off shores. You read this and perhaps you praise the previous book: those are mine or these, the ones which you consider better. It’s good if the book born in the mistress-city is more pleasing [to you]: for the **home-grown book** ought to surpass the **Gallic** one.¹

¹ All translations are mine.

<p>3.69 Omnia quod scribis castis epigrammata verbis Inque tuis nulla est mentula carminibus, Admiror, laudo; nihil est te sanctius uno: At mea luxuria pagina nulla vacat. Haec igitur nequam iuvenes facilesque puellae, Haec senior, sed quem torquet amica, legat. At tua, Cosconi, venerandaque sanctaque verba A pueris debent virginibusque legi.</p>	<p>3.69 Because you write epigrams with chaste words, and there is no dick in your poems, I’m amazed, I praise; there is nothing more pious than you alone. But no page of mine is without luxury. Therefore, let mischievous youths and easy girls read these and an older man, but one who is tortured by his girlfriend. But your honorable and pious words, Cosconius, ought to be read by boys and unmarried girls.</p>
<p>3.90 Volt, non volt dare Galla mihi, nec dicere possum, Quod volt et non volt, quid sibi Galla velit.</p> <p>3.91 Cum peteret patriae missicius arva Ravennae, Semiviro Cybeles cum grege iunxit iter. Huic comes haerebat domini fugitivus Achilles Insignis forma nequitiaque puer. Hoc steriles sensere viri: qua parte cubaret Quaerunt. Sed tacitos sensit et ille dolos: Mentitur, credunt. Somni post vina petuntur: Continuo ferrum noxia turba rapit Exciduntque senem, spondae qui parte iacebat; Namque puer pluteo vindice tutus erat. Subpositam quondam fama est pro virgine cervam, At nunc pro cervo mentula subposita est.</p> <p>3.92 Ut patiar moechum, rogat uxor, Galle, sed unum. Huic ego non oculos eruo, Galle, duos?</p>	<p>3.90 Galla wants and does not want to give it to me, but, because she does and does not want to, I can’t tell what it is Galla wants.</p> <p>3.91 When heading for the fields of Ravenna, his fatherland, a man discharged from military service met up with a half-man crowd of Cybele on his way. A companion was close by his side: the boy Achilles, fleeing his master and known for his beauty and lewdness. The sterile men saw him and asked which part of the bed he slept on. But he saw their silent tricks. He lies to them, and they believe him. Sleep was sought after drinking. Immediately the violent crowd took up a blade and hew down (i.e. emasculated) the old man, who was lying on that part of the bed; for the boy was safe on the back of the bed for protection. Once there was a doe substituted for a maiden, but now a dick is substituted for a buck.</p> <p>3.92 My wife asks that I allow an adulterer, Gallus, but one alone. Do I not tear out his two eyes, Gallus?</p>

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