

## Bodies Having Been Changed: Gender Identity in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the Nonbinary Experience

The modern world has recently started embracing its diversity and allowing for women, disabled individuals, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals to provide their own insights about the ancient world. In this essay, I provide my own interpretations of Publius Ovidius Naso's *Metamorphoses*, from the perspective of a nonbinary Classics student. I address what I think it means to be nonbinary, and how Ovid defines gender identity. I also review the themes of gender transformation and dysphoria in relation to transgender and nonbinary individuals by focusing on three stories and their relation to gender identity and queerness: Iphis and how compulsory heterosexuality impacts gender presentation, Hermaphroditus and the feelings of otherness associated with identifying outside the male/female dichotomy, and Io's feelings of dysphoria and the matching of physical identity to personal. The poster I intend to present contains a brief introduction to my work and identity on the left-hand side, the stories and the content I chose to analyze in the center column, and the conclusions that I made through my work on the right-hand side. By addressing what it means to be nonbinary, and how Ovid's *Metamorphoses* defines gender identity in regard to my own experiences, I am able to understand and provide a modern interpretation of gender performance in ancient Roman works while also using my own introspection into my gender experience as a way of inspiring other scholars to question the gender binary.