The poet Martial, whose epigrams you have already met, found much to write about in the contests taking place in the Amphitheater. In the following poem he praises the gladiator Hermes, who excelled in no fewer than three fighting roles: as a *véles* lightly armed with a spear, as a *rētiārius* with net and trident, and as a *Samnīs* heavily armed with visored helmet. This explains why he is called *ter ūnus* in the last line. The meter is hendecasyllabic.

Read aloud and translate:

Hermēs Mārtia saeculī voluptās,
Hermēs omnibus ērudītus armīs,
Hermēs et gladiātor et magister,
Hermēs turba suī tremorque lūdī,
Hermēs quem timet Hēlius, sed ūnum, 5
Hermēs cui cadit Advolāns, sed ūnī,
Hermēs vincere nec ferīre doctus,
Hermēs suppositīcius sibi ipse,
Hermēs divītiae locāriōrum,
Hermēs cūra laborque lūdiārum, 10
Hermēs belligerā superbus hastā,
Hermēs aequoreō mināx tridente,
Hermēs cassis duram languidā timendus,
Hermēs glōria Mārtis ūniversī,
Hermēs omnia sōlus, et ter ūnus. 15

—Martial, *Epigrams* V.24

1 Hermēs: the gladiator has adopted the name of the Greek god Hermes (= Mercury, the messenger god who conducts souls of the dead to the underworld)
Mārtius, -a, -um, connected with Mars (the god of war and combat)
saeculum, -ī, n., age, era
voluptās, voluptātis, f., pleasure, delight

3 magister, magistrī, m., schoolmaster, master, captain, trainer

4 turba, -ae, f., crowd; cause of confusion/turmoil
suī...lūdī, of his school (of gladiators)
tremor, tremōris, m., cause of fright, terror

5 Hēlius, Greek word for Sun, and Advolāns, literally, *Flying to (the Attack)*—two distinguished gladiators
sed ūnum, but the only one
feriō, -ire, to strike, kill

suppositīcius sibi ipse, himself his only substitute

dīvitiae, -ārum, f. pl., wealth, riches
locārius, -ī, m., scalper (a person who buys up seats in the amphitheater and then sells them for as high a price as he can get)

cūra, -ae, f., care; here, the favorite
labor, labōris, m., work, toil; here, a cause of suffering/distress, “heart-throb”
lūdia, -ae, f., female slave attached to a gladiatorial school

belliger, belligera, belligerum (cf. bellum gerere, to wage war), warlike
superbus, -a, -um, proud, arrogant
hasta, -ae, f., spear

aequoreō...tridente (cf. aequor, aequoris, n., sea), with his sea trident
mināx, minācis, menacing

cassis, cassidis, f., plumed metal helmet
languidus, -a, -um, drooping (describing the crest of the helmet drooping down over the eyes)
timendus, -a, -um, to be feared

Mārtis ūniversī, of every kind of combat

ter, adv., three times
ter ūnus, three men in one

Gladiātor in arēnā cōnsilium capit. The gladiator adopts his plan in the arena (i.e., he thinks on his feet). (Seneca, Epistulae morales XXII)

Nōn tē petō, piscem petō. Quid mē fugis, Galle? It is not you I am aiming at, but the fish. Why do you flee from me, Gallus? (spoken by the adversary of a murmillo; quoted by Festus, 285M, 358L)