In Book 16 of the *City of God* Augustine of Hippo discusses a number of bodies and persons usually described - in what he calls "too curious histories" - as monstrous; bodies that have been recreated, so he tells us, in the mosaics of Carthage's grand esplanade. Augustine is here evoking Pliny the Elder's *Natural History*, where Pliny talks about pygmies, persons with feet so big that they can be used as sun shades, or persons who have only one eye in the center of their foreheads.

Why is Augustine so interested in such bodies and why does he place his main discussion of them in Book 16? In addition, these are not the only places and instances where he talks about extraordinary bodies – he refers to them time and again through the *City of God*. How does he conceive of such extraordinary bodies, and what might that tell us about histories, too curious ones and other ones as well? What, in short, is Augustine trying to tell his readers?