

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
17: Pompēii	prīmā lūce (pp. 6-7)	Currax Gisco Julia Felix	At dawn in Pompeii, the enslaved Currax gets breakfast for his master (Gisco), encountering other slaves and the poor of Pompeii as he does so. We discover Gisco lives with his son (Atto) and Currax in the building of Julia Felix.		
	domus dēserta (pp. 8-9)	Currax Oculatius	Currax has been sent to deliver an amphora of a wine to a house. Finding the house deserted, he looks around – until the owner suddenly appears, and the wine disappears.	Pluperfect tense (p.12)	The domus
	in fullōnicā (p. 13)	Currax workers in the fullery	The work of a fullery is disrupted when, rather than urine, wine – from an amphora innocently left in the wrong place by Currax – is poured onto the clothes.		
	arca parva (p. 14)	Julia Felix Gisco Quartilla	Julia Felix waits in the harbour for a box of spices sent by her brother in Egypt, then heads home. Passing a bar, she sees Gisco and invites him to dinner – on condition that he bring the food and wine. When another customer in the bar calls for service, we learn that the bar is owned by Quartilla, whom Gisco has set free from enslavement	Adverbs (p. 16)	Making perfume
	familia Ampliātī (p. 17)	Currax Cosmus & Nymphius (slaves of Ampliatus)	Currax delivers some wine to the house of a wealthy freedman, Ampliatus. While there he sees some features of the house and encounters different members of the household.	Conjugations (p. 20)	Shops and businesses Cleaning clothes Archaeology of Pompeii
18: libertās	salūtātiō (pp. 23-24)	Ampliatus His clients Nymphius Gisco	Ampliatus is visited by his clients – who receive instructions from him as their patron. Ampliatus then speaks privately with Gisco, who is pleased to become one of Ampliatus' clients – but all is not as it seems.	Future tense (p. 28)	Patrons and clients Becoming a citizen libertī Daily routine
	Umbricia Fortūnāta (p. 30)	Quartilla Stallianus	An elderly plumber and a water leak at first cause chaos in Quartilla's bar. But when she	neccesse est, placet, licet (p. 32)	Garum

		Umbricia Fortunata	leaves to show her friend, Umbricia Fortunata, some letters on broken pieces of amphorae, an ancient garum recipe is revealed.		
	pittacia (p. 33)	Currax Nymphius	After taking some of Gisco's wine to Ampliatius' wine store, Currax sees the labels on the amphoras being changed to disguise the wine's origin.		
	condiciō (pp. 34-35)	Gisco Indus	A letter has led Gisco to wait outside Pompeii for a secret meeting with its author. It transpires that Indus, who now serves in Emperor Nero's personal bodyguard, has been approached to help assassinate him. Will Gisco join the plot?	eō, īre, īī (p. 35)	
	vīndēmia (p. 36)	Gisco Celer (his dog) Nymphius Ampliatius	Gisco sees the grape harvest underway, with slaves picking the grapes and starting the process of turning them into wine. Ampliatius repeats his promise to make Gisco rich.		Wine Bacchus

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
19: <i>lacrimae</i>	mors filiī (pp. 39-41)	Gisco Quartilla Umbricius Scaurus and his family Currax	Gisco and Quartilla watch a sad funeral procession as it makes its way through the city to a speech in the forum, the cremation outside the city, and a funeral dinner at the tomb.	Present participles (p. 44)	Funerals and tombs
	in hortō Iūliae (p. 45)	Julia Felix Gisco	Julia Felix's worship of the goddess Isis is interrupted by Gisco, who is planning to tackle Ampliatus about his deceitful rebranding of Gisco's wine. Julia advises caution.		Isis
	cēna Ampliātī (p. 48)	Ampliatus Gisco guests of Ampliatus	Ampliatus hosts a dinner party. Gisco challenges Ampliatus about the way that he is selling the wine, but is frustrated in his efforts by the support Ampliatus receives from other guests.	ferō, ferre, tulī (p. 51)	The afterlife Egypt
	epistula ex Ephesō (p. 52)	Rufina Lucrio Gisco	Gisco receives a letter from Rufina. She writes that she is now in Ephesus with Lucrio, helping the poor and the sick – it becomes clear she has learned something of the art of medicine. She asks about Quartilla and Currax, and as she remembers Catia we are reminded that Gisco is now a single parent bringing up his son alone.	Use of present participles	Orpheus and Eurydice

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
20: mūnera	Carthāgo (pp. 55-56)	Sabina Alexander Hermione Hector (her son)	In a street in Carthage, Sabina, Hermione and Alexander meet up, and dote on Hermione's son, Hector. Elsewhere in the city, sailors are trying to load animals onto a ship, ready to be transported to amphitheatres around the empire.	Active and passive (p. 58)	Carthāgō Amphitheatres
	ad amphitheātrum (pp. 59-61)	Sabina Alexander A street vendor	Sabina meets Alexander near the amphitheatre in Carthage, where gladiatorial games are about to begin. They are approached by a saleswoman selling an unusual product, and watch the procession of gladiators and animals.		
	in lūdō (p. 62)	Damon Barca other gladiators	At a training camp, some gladiators discuss and think about the realities of their lives while waiting for their turn to fight in the amphitheatre.	Imperfect passive (p. 63)	Gladiators
	Barca (p. 66)	Barca	A monologue from the gladiator Barca, on the morning of a fight, expressing his hopes for freedom.		
	in plaustrō (p. 66)	Barca Damon the <i>lanista</i>	After the fight, Barca and a wounded fellow gladiator are being transported home by the lanista. Barca decides to take his fate into his own hands.	The ablative with passive verbs (p. 68)	Watching the games Animals in the arena Hannibal

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
21: vīta	ad lītus (pp. 71-73)	Sabina Alexander Hermione workers at the harbour	Alexander and Sabina head to the port of Carthage to draw animals which are being exported, then take a walk along the coast. Sabina spots Hermione, and the two women play a trick on Alexander.	Perfect passive participles (p. 76)	Animals
	in tēctō (p. 77)	Sabina Barca	Sabina hangs out laundry on the roof of her house in Carthage. When taking a moment to rest in the sun, she is startled to find a wounded man hiding there.		
	fugitīvus (p. 78)	Sabina Barca	Sabina discovers the wounded man on her roof is the escaped gladiator Barca. He begs for her help.	Perfect passive participles with the verb 'to be' (p. 78)	Adorning the body
	amīca (p. 80)	Sabina Barca a neighbour guards	Sabina helps a friend arrange her hair, put on make-up and jewellery, and get dressed. It is revealed however that it is Barca, who is being disguised as a woman in order to escape. Unfortunately a neighbour overhears their conversation, and alerts the guards to Barca's presence. Barca manages to flee.	Perfect passive (p. 81)	Fashion Cosmetics
	trīstia (p. 84)	Sabina Hermione	Hermione talks to Sabina about the difficulties she faces as a widow and as a mother. Sabina becomes upset as she and Alexander would like to have children but she has yet to become pregnant.	Pluperfect passive (p. 85)	Africa and Rome

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
22: liberī	partēs imāginis (pp. 88-89)	Sabina Hector Alexander	While Hermione teaches on the other side of the city, Sabina looks after Hector. When Alexander enters and cares for the baby, Sabina sees before her a picture of a life she is unable to provide.		
	Hermionē grammatica (pp. 89-90)	Hermione Her students	Meanwhile, under a tree near the shore, Hermione is struggling to motivate some of her students ...	Deponent verbs (p. 92)	Education Claudia Victoria
	mātrimōnium (p. 93)	Alexander Sabina	Sabina and Alexander are approached by a fortune teller, who turns out to be a fraud. Sabina confides in Alexander about her despair that they have tried everything but still are not able to have children.		
	Sabīna dēspērat (p. 93)	Sabina Alexander Hermione	Sabina, having visited the temple of the Bona Dea, worries for her marriage.		Children Growing up
	aurum (p. 96)	Alexander Ocar (a thief) Ocar's gang of men	Alexander, out walking at night, hides away to overhear how a gang of thieves gets disappointed in their quest for Dido's treasure.	Present passive infinitives (p. 97)	Dido's treasure Childhood
	Fortūna (pp. 100-101)	Sabina Alexander Umbricia Quartilla Currax Gisco	Unable to have children, Sabina and Alexander have reluctantly decided to separate. While Alexander remains in Carthage, Sabina sets off to Pompeii on another commission. But who will Sabina find in Pompeii, and what does Fortune have in store for her and Alexander?		Dido and Aeneas

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
23: honor	Lōcusta (pp. 103-105)	Locusta	A new character, Locusta, is hard at work carrying out research on herbs and animals in the Domus Aurea. But as we learn more about her work, it becomes clear that she is developing a poison.		
	spēs et metus (p. 106)	Lucilius (son) Lucilius (father) Lucilius's mother Tiro	Lucilius has returned to Rome, and talks to his parents about the difficult situation in the city and his association with Otho. Lucilius' father hopes that his son may become a senator, whilst his mother hopes that he'll marry. A messenger calls Lucilius to the palace.	cum + pluperfect subjunctive (p. 107)	The Senate cursus honōrum
	Epaphrodītus (pp. 110-111)	Lucilius Tiro Epaphroditus	Lucilius and Tiro go to the Domus Augusti, where Epaphroditus, Nero's freedman and most trusted advisor, offers Lucilius a job.		Imperial freedmen Management of the Empire
	venenum (p. 114)	Clodius his three sons his freedman	The senator Clodius invites his sons to dinner, in order to submit them to a test to see who will be most worthy of being his heir.	cum + imperfect subjunctive (p. 115)	Poison Establishing the Principate

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
24: Achaea	Athēnae (pp. 119-121)	Lucilius Tiro	Lucilius returns to the Acropolis, a favourite haunt from his youth. During the visit, it becomes clear that Tiro has a much deeper understanding of the Parthenon.	Result clauses (p. 124)	Roman Athens
	memorantēs iuventūtem (p. 125)	Lucilius Tiro Philo	Lucilius runs into an old friend in Athens, with whom he had studied as a young man. It is suggested that the two were lovers as young men, and Philo tells Lucilius of his life.	Compound verbs (p. 127)	Rhetoric
	vīta beāta (pp. 128 - 129)	Athenians in the agora	Two boys are selling figs in the Agora, and their sales tactics lead to a lively discussion among the public about what makes for a 'good life'.		Philosophy
	in Isthmō (p. 132)	Nero Lucilius an old man	Nero begins to dig a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth – an action which leads an old man to compare the emperor with the Persian King Xerxes, whose fate he suggests should serve as a warning.	4 th declension nouns (p. 133)	Greece and Rome

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
25: Olympia	Nerō omnia vincit (pp. 135-137)	Nero Demetrius and Leander	In Olympia spectators gather for the chariot race. Nero himself competes. When Nero falls from his chariot, his slaves rush to lift him back in while his 'competitors' find ways to ensure Nero wins.	Indirect commands (p. 139)	The Olympic Games
	somnium (p. 140)	Nero his Batavian bodyguard	Nero has a dream that he interprets as an omen that Locusta means to kill him.		
	Pherenīcē et Cynisca (p. 141)	Eirene (woman living near Olympia) Pherenice and Cynisca (her daughters)	A mother inspires her daughters by revealing that their namesakes were famous women in Olympic history, even though she herself – as a married woman – is unable to attend the nearby games.	Indirect questions (p. 144)	Sport and exercise
	statua nova prīncipis (p. 145)	Nero Crito (an Olympian judge) Prometheus (a sculptor)	Nero is honoured at Olympia as a champion and receives a statue, but those watching the ceremony recognise that these Olympic Games have been something of a charade.		The body
	necāre nec necāri (p. 148)	Indus Lucilius	In a bar in Olympia, Indus is struggling to devise a plan to assassinate Nero without himself and his conspirators also being killed. As he scans the faces in the bar, he sees danger wherever he looks and reaches for his dagger. When Lucilius enters and sits down next to him with a jolt, Indus cuts his own hand, and a plan is born.	5 th declension nouns (p. 149)	Echo and Narcissus

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
26: Delphī	mūsicus (īn)fēlix (pp. 152-154)	Musicians arriving in Delphi	Musicians are gathering at the Temple of Apollo in Delphi. One of them, however, has lost his dog, his girlfriend and his money. Will that be good or bad news for an aspiring musician?	Purpose clauses (p. 155)	Music
	Nerō canēns (p. 158)	Nero spectators in the theatre in Delphi	During an interminable performance given by Nero at Delphi, an old man collapses and has to be carried out from the theatre – but it transpires that his collapse was feigned so that he did not have to listen to the emperor any longer.		Poetry
	triumphus (p. 160)	Calvia Crispinilla (advisor to Nero) Nero Indus	Calvia Crispinilla (an advisor to Nero) encourages the emperor to return to Rome to respond to the unrest across the empire. Indus sees a way of furthering his plans.	dum (while) (p. 160)	Divine inspiration: the Muses Recitations
	ōrāculum ultimum (p. 164)	Nero the Pythia	Nero consults the Delphic oracle about the time of his death. When the oracle not only offers up an answer, but also accuses him of matricide, he has her enclosed in her own chamber and her priests hurled from a cliff.		Oracles Marsyas

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
27: Ephesus	trēs avēs parvae (pp. 167-169)	Menander Phoebe Lucrio Rufina Soranos	Menander and Phoebe are barbers setting up their stall. Menander shaves a customer, Phoebe counts the money and enquires about the health of her neighbour, Lucrio, who appears on crutches. Phoebe herself has a headache, which Lucrio suggests Rufina will be able to cure. As evening falls, Phoebe sends her son, Soranos, to the forum to deposit the day's takings while she sits down with Rufina.		
	mercātor revenit (p. 170)	Lucrio Soranos Zabdela	When Lucrio and Soranos are preparing medicines, the merchant Zabdela arrives to see Rufina. Lucrio explains Zabdela played an important part in their flight from Rome, and that Zabdela saved his life when he had been injured.	Ablative absolute (p. 171)	Asclepius Doctors
	Sōrānos (p. 174)	Soranos Rufina	With a storm brewing and Rufina out of town, a young boy begs Soranos to help his sister, who has fallen from the roof of her house and is badly injured.	dum + subjunctive (p. 174) ipse (p. 179)	Ephesus Surgery
	sermō cum Rūfīnā (p. 178)	Soranos Phoebe Rufina	Soranos is terrified by his (in)experience. While comforting him, Rufina reveals a tragic loss from her own past.		
	medica mīrābilis (p. 179)	Rufina Soranos Castor Marus	Rufina helps Castor, a young man injured in the gymnasium. A misunderstanding leads Castor's friend Marus to imagine Rufina a miracle-worker.		Drugs and medicines East and West

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
28: itinera	tumultus Ephesī (p. 184)	Lucrio (telling the story to Soranos)	Angry that Christians in Ephesus may be damaging their trade by challenging people's beliefs, the local artisans, who make images of Artemis and her temple, riot and drag two Christians into the theatre. Order is restored, however, by a local official who questions what crime the Christians have committed and reminds the artisans of the need for due process.	Imperfect and pluperfect passive subjunctives (p. 186)	Temple of Artemis
	camēlī (pp. 187 - 189)	Zabdela (telling the story to Rufina)	Zabdela tells the story of how he used to be an army doctor and then merchant in Palmyra, and relates the harrowing night he once spent in the desert.	Connecting relatives (p. 192)	Palmyra
	Aponia (p. 193)	Rufina Aponia (daughter of the proconsul and priestess of Artemis)	It is a busy day in the forum at Ephesus. Rufina is looking for ingredients, a procession – featuring the governor's daughter, Aponia, a priestess of Artemis – is heading to the temple, and a pickpocket is working the crowd. He startles Aponia, who is ill, and she collapses		Travel and communication
	Bastiza (p. 196)	Lucrio (revealed to be Bastiza) Perilla (his friend to whom he tell his story)	An old man tells the story of how he was enslaved when he was young and forced to leave his parents, wife, and daughters. The final lines reveal that the story is told by Lucrio.	Comparative adverbs (p. 197)	The Partians

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
29: lēx	Rūfīna quasīta (p. 199)	Aponia Aponius (her father)	Aponia is ill, and her father (Aponius, the proconsul) as well as the other members of her household are worried. It is suggested to seek the help of Rufina, a well-known doctor.	Perfect active infinitives (p. 200)	
	Rūfīna accūsāta (p. 200)	Rufina an enslaved woman Aponius (the proconsul)	Rufina tries to save the girl (who is revealed to have taken an unknown medicine), but is not able to do so. Her father, the proconsul, is enraged, and accuses Rufina of witchcraft.	Indirect statements with perfect active infinitives (p. 201)	
	Aphrodīsias (p. 202)	A family	A family visits the Sebasteion in Aphrodisias.	Perfect passive infinitives (p. 204)	Emperor worship
	Sebastēion (p. 204)	The family from Aphrodīsias (p.202) an old man	An old man, now begging for money, tells the family that he had worked on the construction of the Sebasteion. He explains he was injured working on the temple, and they discuss several of the images.	Indirect statements with perfect passive infinitives (p. 205)	Imperial propaganda
	Iūdaea (p. 208)	Zabdela & Soranos (listening to a report from a herald)	A town crier tells the story of the situation in Judaea, where Vespasian is attempting to repress a Jewish rebellion, on Nero's orders.		
	accūsātiō (p. 209)	Rufina Aponius Marus	First phase of Rufina's trial: Aponius accuses her of witchcraft and the murder of his daughter. Marus speaks to say he's seen Rufina effect miracles.		The law
	dēfēnsiō (p. 211)	Rufina Menander Zabdela Lucrio	Second phase of Rufina's trial: witnesses speak in support of Rufina including Menander and Zabdela. Lucrio is called to provide evidence and is tortured, but does not speak against Rufina.		
	prōvocātiō (p. 212)	Rufina Soranos Menander	Third phase of Rufina's trial: Rufina is about to be judged guilty, when a young man cries out that she should use her right to appeal to the emperor. Rufina does, and she is taken away to Rome for trial instead. She calls out to Menander that she gives Lucrio his freedom.		cīvis Rōmānus sum Appeal to the emperor Actaeon

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
30: ōmina	auspicia mala (pp. 215-217)	Nero augurs	Nero has a bad dream. Augurs read the omens and foretell bad events.	Future passive (p. 219)	Augury
	viae Subūrae (p. 219)	Rufina	Rufina is taken through the city in a cart (on her way to trial), and is overwhelmed by memories of her life in the Subura.		Augurs and influence
	iūdicium imperātōris (p. 221)	Nero Indus Rufina	Rufina is taken to trial to Nero, who is guarded by Indus. Nero decides to spare Rufina, believing her skills can be useful to him.	Future participle and future infinitive (p. 222)	
	in popīnā (p. 223)	Indus Rufina Gisco	Indus takes Rufina to a bar, where they meet up with Gisco. The three happily reunite, and share news.		
	coniūrātiō (p. 224)	Rufina Gisco Indus Lucilius	Lucilius enters the bar, and the men explain to Rufina that they are conspiring against Nero. They share the plans they have been making to kill the emperor.	Indirect statements with future infinitive (p. 225)	Magic
	per nocturnās umbrās (p. 228)	Gisco	Gisco, wrestling with his conscience and grieving his wife, enacts a ritual to call up ghosts. He is visited by several ghosts from his past.		
	solve cūrās tuās (p. 228)	Gisco Catia	The final ghost is Catia – who tells Gisco to stop his grief, and move on with his life.		Ghosts Circe

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
31: bellum	I: Vindex II: Galba et Othō III: Verginius (pp. 232 -233)	Vindex Galba Otho Verginius	Generals in different parts of the empire consider their next moves. Vindex (in Gaul), writes to the others to join in a rebellion against Nero. Galba and Otho (in Spain) consider what it means for their plans of overthrowing Nero. Verginius (in Germania) is unsure whether to join or attempt to squash Vindex's revolt.	Verbs of fearing (p. 233)	The legions
	Vindoissa (pp. 236 237)	Balbus Marius	Balbus, a legionary soldier in Vindonissa, under Verginius's command, gets ready to set out with the legion to his first real engagement. He worries, but is reassured by Marius, an experienced soldier who looks after the <i>ballistae</i> .		
	oppidum Vesontiō (p. 237)	Verginius Marius Balbus	Verginius arrives at Vesontium, Vindex's stronghold, and lays siege to it. Messengers are sent, and tensions run high among the soldiers.		A career in the army
	Vindex et Verginius (p. 239)	Vindex Verginius	Vindex and Verginius meet for talks. Vindex explains his reasons for rebelling (Nero's terrible government, his belief Galba would make a good emperor) and the men agree to avoid bloodshed.	Ablative of comparison (p. 240)	Loyalty and leadership
	cāsū pugnātur (p. 242)	Balbus Marius	During the peace talks, tensions run high among the soldiers in both camps, who are poised for a fight. A signal is misinterpreted, and the two sides attack. A short but bloody battle follows (in which the Romans are victorious, but Balbus is injured). Verginius deals out harsh punishments to his troops afterwards, for their disobedience.		Military engineering
	imperium Urbis et orbis (p. 244)	Galba Otho	In Spain, Galba receives news that Vindex's rebellion has been suppressed by Verginius. Otho reassures him that all is not lost, and that Galba will soon be the new emperor.	mālō,mälle, māluī (p. 245)	Succession

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
32: finis	tempus est (p. 248)	Indus Rufina Nero	Indus tells Rufina it is time to act as Lucilius has received the green light from Otho. Nero fears his time is up, and decides he will take his life by poison (but goes to have a nap first).		
	nec amicus nec inimicus (p. 248)	Nero	When Nero wakes up, he finds the palace deserted, as everyone has abandoned him. He rushes around in a frenzy.	ad + gerundive (p. 249)	Guarding the emperor
	locus dēsertus (p. 251)	Nero Phaon	Nero flees from Rome to the villa of his freedman Phaon. So as not to be seen, he is forced to enter the house through an underground passage. (adapted from Suetonius)		
	verbō aut gladiō (p. 252)	Gisco Lucilius	Lucilius has been in the Senate, where the senators are debating whether to condemn Nero. Before the debate can reach a conclusion however, Lucilius sends Gisco to Nero with a letter and a sword.	īdem, eadem, idem (p. 252)	
	ultima hora (p. 253)	Nero Gisco Indus Epaphroditus	Gisco arrives with the letter, which states that the Senate have decided to proscribe Nero. Nero attempts to commit suicide, but can't manage it himself. He begs for help and Epaphroditus and Indus kill him with a sword. (adapted from Suetonius)		Nero: post mortem
	nova initia (p. 256)	Gisco Lucilus Rufina Indus	The four conspirators reflect on what their future might hold, now that they have succeeded.		Homecoming Urbs aeterna
	Subūrānī	Sabina Indus Rufina Alexander Lucilius	Some years in the future, we see how the Suburani, back in the Subura, continue their lives.		