

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
1: Subura	Sabina	Sabina Faustus (her father) Rufina (her aunt)	Introduction to Sabina and her family. Sabina pretends to be working while reading in her room.	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd person singular verbs	The Subura The population of the city of Rome
	Lucilius	Lucilius Manius (a beggar) Sabina	Lucilius comes to the Subura, has an encounter with a beggar and narrowly avoids being hit by a tile from the roof.	Word order	Women at work Living in an insula
	nox	Faustus Rufina	A thief does well in the inn while Rufina works and Faustus drinks wine.		Rome in AD64
2: Roma	Via Flaminia	Gisco Catia (from Britain) Their son Celer, the dog A poor man Currax, Faustus' slave	Gisco and his family arrive in Rome with its magnificent sites. Catia is not impressed by the statue of Claudius. Currax asks if they are looking for a room and takes them to Faustus who manages a block of flats.		First impressions (Rome) The growth of Rome
	Forum Boarium	Rufina Sabina Quartilla, a female slave A merchant	Sabina rescues the family's parrot which a merchant claims belongs to him.	Nominative and accusative cases	What was a forum?
	Forum Romanum	Faustus Lucrio, his slave A senator	Faustus tells a senator that he doesn't have the money he owes him, and the senator's slave beats up Lucrio. The senator makes a veiled threat to take Sabina as a slave girl if he doesn't get his money.	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd declensions	The Forum Romanum
	cella	Currax Gisco (retired soldier) Catia Rufina	In the inn, Rufina gives Gisco and Catia some food and drink. Currax shows Gisco the room which he describes as excellent. Although Gisco disagrees, he says Currax is an excellent businessman!	Gender of nouns	Romulus and Remus

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3: <i>ludi</i>	Circus Maximus	Sabina Iulia, her friend Lucilius Faustus Faustus' friend	Sabina and Iulia head to the races. Lucilius smiles at Sabina, who is worried when she sees her father making a bet. The Greens win – Lucilius wins his bet but Faustus and his friend do not ...	Nominative plural and plural verbs	Public festivals
	palma	Gisco Faustus	The two men discuss the races. Faustus has lost a lot of money and the red team's driver is dead. Gisco wins some money when the white team is victorious and Faustus looks happily at Gisco!		Chariot racing
	post ludos	Rufina Quartilla Two chariot drivers Catia	Two charioteers come into Rufina's inn. One of them grabs hold of Quartilla. Catia hears the noise and rushes in holding a sword. The men run off, terrified. Catia tells the astonished women that in Britain, many women have swords.	Accusative plural	Charioteers Three phases of ruling
4: <i>dei</i>	saxum	Quartilla Manius Rufina	As Rufina, Quartilla and other Christians are worshipping in the apartment, a rock is thrown through the window with the word 'beware'. Manius is amazed that they do not honour the Roman gods but Rufina says she trusts Christ. Even when a burning torch flies through the window, which Quartilla extinguishes, she declares that Christ is her rock.	2 nd declension neuter nouns	Christianity Vesta State religion
	Vestalia	Catia Sabina Cornelia	Women are celebrating the Vestalia. Catia explains to her son that all the women are bringing gifts. Sabina and Iulia meet a friend, Cornelia, who points out the beautifully decorated donkeys. Don't step in their muck!	'We' and 'you'	Homes of the gods

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4: dei (cont'd)	omina	Lucilius Nero	A procession to the Capitol culminates in a sacrifice in the presence of Nero. The people shout their approval of Nero as he enters the temple to worship Jupiter. The crowd are happy to see a deity although Nero tells them he is not yet a god. Lucilius thinks he's a dangerous man.	3 rd declension neuter nouns	Sacrifice Private worship
	dona	Faustus Sabina Lucrio	While worshipping the Lares in their home, Sabina's clothes catch fire. Lucrio puts the flames out with the wine but Faustus is worried that the Lares are angry.		Deucalion and Pyrrha
5: aqua	febris	Rufina Quartilla Sabina Manius	On a hot, noisy night in the Subura, Sabina finds Manius lying near a fountain trying to drink. No one dares approach him as he has a fever. Manius whispers 'goodbye' and although Rufina tries to lift him up, Manius is already dead.	'To do' something	
	thermae Neronianae	Lucilius His friends	Lucilius enjoys his time at the baths and eventually joins his friends in the swimming pool. Nero wants to build a new house but the city is full. Lucilius remarks that Nero can do anything he likes.	possum	The baths
	in latrina	Faustus Gisco An old man	While conversing in the public toilets, Gisco tells Faustus he would prefer to have a rural farm rather than live in an apartment block. The Subura is dangerous. Faustus tells Gisco about the senator who has threatened to take Sabina as a slave girl. An old man shouts that he is constipated and now he's anxious, too!	volo and nolo	Public toilets Water supply Sanitation

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5: aqua (cont'd)	fuga: pars prima	Thellus Gallio	Two slaves come up with a plan to escape from the baths by lifting a grate which leads into a sewer. They manage to get into the sewer but the guards hear them and chase them with dogs.		Rome under attack!
6: servitium	de cella	Faustus Lucrio The senator's slave	A family leaves Faustus' apartment without paying the rent, complaining that it's dirty and infested with vermin. As Faustus and Lucrio fix the roof, they hear a noise from the street. The senator's slave is shouting that his master wants his annual rent in three days. 'You are in great danger' he tells Sabina.	The ablative case	
	Currax et Quartilla	Currax Quartilla (his mother) Septimus	Currax is sad because Gisco and Catia want to move away from the city taking their dog, Celer, who is Currax' friend with them. Currax bemoans their lives as slaves and wants to run away, much to Quartilla's dismay. As she tells Currax that's a dangerous thing to suggest, a man named Septimus overhears them and shouts to Rufina; does she want to sell her slave girl?	Prepositions	How were people enslaved? The life of a slave
	epistula		Lucilius senior writes to his son Lucilius from Sicily where he is the provincial governor. He is worried about the news his friends have written – Nero wants to build in a city which is full. Lucilius wonders whether their own house is safe? Times are dangerous. He tells his son to travel to Lusitania where the governor, Otho, is looking for a tribune. Their slaves and freedmen can see to their house.		Roman letters: epistulae

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6: servitium (cont'd)	fuga: pars secunda	Thellus Gallio Guards	While trying to escape through the sewer, Gallio is captured but Thellus makes it to the river. Gallio is tortured but insists that Thellus is dead. The guards brand him on the head. Although Thellus runs for three days and nights, he is eventually captured by two farmers who take him back to the guards.	Time	Seeking freedom Manumission Theseus and the Minotaur
7: Londinium	amici	Faustus Gisco Indus	Gisco meets a friend, Indus, whom he knew when they were soldiers together in Britain. Indus tells Faustus that many monsters live in Britain...		
	de Britannia	Catia Gisco	Catia tells friends of her life in Britain where her family made swords, and how she met Gisco. They don't agree on the details of that day!	Imperfect tense	Londinium Made in Londinium
	Celer	Gisco Currax	Gisco tells Currax of an occasion in Britain when he and Indus were hunting. When Gisco was threatened by a huge boar, the dog Celer attacked the animal, saving Gisco's life.		
	fructus mirabilis	Catia (telling the story)	Catia and her sister, Aucissa, were being hassled by a Spanish sailor. Catia threw an apple at him but it missed and hit Gisco instead. Catia was afraid at first but Gisco laughed – "An apple is a dangerous fruit!"	Perfect tense	Food Romans invading
8: Britannia	gladius	Catia (telling the story)	A sword went missing from the workshop and Aucissa left, very upset. She told Catia that a friend of hers, Luccus, took the sword and the girls try to get it back. Although they catch Luccus, his friends run off with the sword.	Perfect tense (cont'd)	Britannia

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8: Britannia (cont'd)	Luccus I	Catia (telling the story)	Luccus told Catia's parents that he'd taken the sword for his father who wanted to kill a Roman veteran.		
	Luccus II	Catia (telling the story)	When Luccus' father had been farming near Camulodunum, they were attacked, their village destroyed and Luccus' younger brother was killed. Although Catia's parents do much business with the Romans, Luccus calls them stupid – the buildings in Camulodunum show that the Romans are oppressing the Britons and he wants to set them free. He runs off.		Camulodunum: Britain's first city Resist or accept?
	Druides	Sabina Gisco Indus Catia Rufina & Faustus	The friends discuss the practices of the Druids although Catia thinks they are not as bad as some people suggest. She and Gisco quarrel about it.		The Druids
	heros	Catia (telling the story)	Once when they were young, Aucissa fell through the ice into a river and was rescued by her friend and a Roman soldier who jumped into the river. Although Aucissa was saved, the soldier was too heavy for her friend to pull out...	Superlatives	The Amazons
9: rebellio	Camulodunum I		A messenger took a letter to the procurator. Meanwhile, Boudica was whipping up hatred against the Romans.		
	Camulodunum II	Indus (telling the story)	The letter was asking for help for the veterans in Camulodunum. Two hundred soldiers were dispatched but without suitable weapons. When Boudica attacked the town, there was indiscriminate slaughter. Finally, the Britons set fire to the temple where the	The dative case	Chain of command

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9: <i>rebellio</i> (cont'd)			remaining veterans had hidden. Boudica then set off towards London.		
	Septimus revenit	Quartilla Faustus & Rufina Currax Septimus	Quartilla has had a bad day and been given no food. Septimus again offered a good price to buy Quartilla but Rufina refused. Quartilla thinks her life with Currax and a mistress she knows would be better than having a different master who is unknown to her.	The dative plural	The forces Women and war
	umbra	Catia (telling the story)	Boudica's forces arrived in London. Catia and Gisco went into the city to rescue her parents and Aucissa. They found Aucissa dying but couldn't locate her parents. They are warned by the ghost of Catia's mother to escape – or was it a deity?		
	fuga ex oppidō Londinio	Catia & Indus (telling the story)	Indus & Catia describe how they escaped from the enemy by jumping into the river and journeying by night until they reached the Roman army.	Verbs with the dative case	Fenwick Treasure Why join the army?
	proelium	Gisco (telling the story)	The Roman army and Boudica's troops faced each other but although they were outnumbered, the Romans had better tactics and destroyed the Britons. Gisco encountered Luccus and at first wanted to spare him. However, when he saw the young man's sword, he killed him.		Resistance

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10: Aquae Sulis	pax Romana	Antigonus Gisco (telling the story)	Both Antigonus and Gisco agreed that the area around Aquae Sulis was a good one. The Romans and Britons together made offerings to Sulis Minerva.		
	magnum periculum	Indus (telling the story)	While building the baths, a boy was trapped under a huge rock which fell from a wagon. After Gisco and Indus failed to move the rock, one of the British captives managed to do so and was set free for saving the boy's life.	1 st & 2 nd declension adjectives	Aquae Sulis Different gods
	senex ignotus	Catia (telling the story)	On discovering she was pregnant, Catia went to make an offering to the Suleviae. She saw an old man carrying a curse tablet who ran off when Celer barked. The tablet cursed a Numidian horseman who had killed the old man's son. Catia was terrified.	3 rd declension adjectives	Curses
	vox crudelis	Catia (telling the story) An old man Indus	Thinking about the curse, Catia was unable to sleep and got up. She was threatened by a man holding a dagger who claimed to have already killed a Roman guard and was now after the Numidian horseman. Struck dumb with fear, Catia was rescued by Indus who killed the old man with his sword.		Military life The people of Roman Britain
	vale	Catia Gisco Sabina Faustus	On Gisco's discharge from the army, he and Catia came to Rome, although they were sad that Antigonus had died of an illness. Indus was about to tell his story when Lucrio whispers to Faustus that 'he has prepared everything'. Faustus told Sabina that she must leave the city.		The Gorgons

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11: mare	Ostia	Sabina Lucrio Rufina	By night, Lucrio took Sabina to the river where they sailed to the port of Ostia. They looked for a ship belonging to Marcus, a friend of Faustus. Sabina made an offering to Neptune and Rufina to her own god. After handing over money and a brooch to Sabina, Lucrio said goodbye to her.		Romans and the sea
	ad Galliam	Sabina Alexander A sailor	On the voyage, Sabina got to know Alexander. She also listened as one of the sailors began to tell a story about pirates...	The genitive case	The first sailors Underwater archaeology Navigation and maps
	piratae	The sailor (telling the story)	The sailor told of when he was sailing with his father and was attacked by pirates near Sicily. He hid under amphorae but when the pirates started killing the crew, he jumped into the sea. He never saw his father again.	The genitive plural	Dangers at sea
	tempestas I	Sabina Alexander	On the voyage, Sabina was afraid for the safety of her father back in the Subura.		
	tempestas II	Sabina Alexander	A huge storm arose which terrified the crew and threatened to overwhelm the ship. Alexander held onto Sabina. Eventually, the storm subsided and the ship reached Arles.	-Ne and -que	Travelling by sea Pirates in the Mediterranean Sea
12: incendium	fumus	Lucrio Rufina	After watching Marcus' ship sail away, Lucrio and Rufina returned to Rome, finding flames and the river completely blocked by small boats and ships.		
	flammae	Lucrio (telling the story) Rufina	The whole city was burning, including the temple of Vesta. Rufina told Lucrio to help the firemen while she returned to the Subura. Lucrio was beaten by one of the		

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12: incendium (cont'd)			firemen as he did not help them and fell to the ground, overcome by the heat and the smoke	Giving orders	Fighting the fire Vesta and Vulcan
	incendium in Subura	Catia Quartilla Currax Gisco	As the whole city was engulfed in flames, there was panic in the Subura. Leaving Currax outside, Catia and Quartilla tried to reach Catia's son who was asleep in the apartment building, Gisco returned and asked Currax where Catia and his son were. At that moment, Gisco grabbed Currax as the whole block collapsed into the street.	Vocative case	Fuel and fire After the fire Finding a scapegoat Domus Aurea
	fures	Chilo Proclus Faustus	Chilo, pleased that his friend Proclus was safe, suggested that they loot the shops which had been deserted. As they ate and drank in an inn, Chilo was attacked by Faustus, the innkeeper. Chilo hit him with a wine jar and the thieves left. Faustus, with blood flowing from his head, died.		What caused the Great Fire of Rome? - The ancient sources - The modern experts - The suspects Prometheus
13: Arelate	prima luce		Sabina walks through the streets of Arles and reaches a bakery where the men are already working.	Relative clauses	How to build a Roman town (10 easy steps)
	in pistrino	Sabina Poppillus, the baker Letta, his wife Alexander	Sabina was working in the bakery with Poppillus, the baker, and his wife Letta, who had been looking after Sabina for three months. On hearing a noise outside, they found that Alexander had been attacked by Poppillus' goose. Letta whispered that Alexander wanted to be alone with Sabina but he blushed and claimed he'd come to invite them all to the theatre.		

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13: <i>A relate</i> (cont'd)	in theatro	Poppillus Sabina Alexander Letta	At the theatre, Alexander was annoyed that Poppillus and Letta sat between him and Sabina. He pointed out some of the mosaics which he himself had made. The pantomime they were watching was the story of Pyramus and Thisbe whose experience was mirrored by that of Alexander and Sabina!		The theatre
	sub vesperam	Darius Gabrus Two actors	An old actor, Gabrus, collapsed and Darius, his fellow actor, suggested he was now too old. Gabrus knew it was true but was worried about how he would live as he had no family. One actor suggested he could beg in the streets, another that he could tell stories in the inns. Darius offered him money that their patron had given them – he could live well for a few days. That night, Gabrus slept under the aqueduct. (Alternative endings: Gabrus was robbed of his money or two brothers offered him a home)	Relative pronouns	Making bread Pyramus and Thisbe
14: <i>artifex</i>	in officina fabrorum	Sabina Alexander	Sabina went to Alexander's workshop and he showed her the mosaics he was making. He asked her if she wanted to help and she agreed to come the next day.	The future tense	Creating mosaics
	autumnus	Sabina Philetus Alexander	Sabina, now working as a mosaic maker, told Philetus that Alexander had received a letter from his parents' and was very happy. Alexander admitted to himself that he loved Sabina and said he had something very important to ask her. Obviously nervous, he asked 'Will you be		Mosaic pattern books

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14: <i>artifex</i> (cont'd)			my ... assistant?' Sabina was astounded. Alexander told her he wanted her to come with him to Lusitania to work.		
	manere aut abire	Poppillus Sabina Letta	Sabina did not know what to do. Letta urged her to seize the opportunity to see new places with Alexander, although she was amazed that he had not asked Sabina to marry him. Sabina decided to pray to Minerva and came back after a few hours. Poppillus asked what she was going to do.	Comparison	
	in metallo	Lucilius The manager Tiro, Lucilius' slave	Lucilius visits a mine where the manager explains the processes to him but claims they are not finding as much gold as they use to. A slave shouts that the manager knows why that is so and tells Lucilius to ask about Cantaber and the wagons. The manager denies it and tries to change the subject. Lucilius quietly asks Tiro to find out what he can from the slaves about Cantaber.		Mining at Las Medulas Mining techniques Women
15: <i>villa</i>	in culina/in horto		A tribune is to visit Cantaber's house on the next day: the girls discuss the tribune's beautiful eyes. In the garden, two slaves argue about how hard each of them is working and are warned that Cantaber is angry when he sees slaves not working well...		Country estates
	in villa Cantabri	Lucilius Tiro Sabina Alexander	While Tiro talks to the slaves, Lucilius recognises Sabina who tells him that Faustus is dead. She gives him information about wagons that come and go during the night. Alexander is horrified – Cantaber could harm them and his family. He's also jealous of Lucilius!	Statements, direct and indirect	

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15: villa (cont'd)	cena	Lucilius Cantaber Alexander Sabina	Lucilius tried to find out from Cantaber how much gold the mine actually produced. Hiding his anger, Cantaber claimed the wagons were almost empty – he would be better off looking after farms than mines. Lucilius did not believe him but made no reply. Meanwhile, Alexander apologises to Sabina for suggesting she was in love with Lucilius: she forgives him but says that Cantaber is a dangerous man. She will, however, be a faithful companion to Alexander through all dangers.	Indirect statements – Perfect main verbs Indirect statements – se or eum?	Dinner parties Menus
	post cenam	Lucilius Tiro	In the middle of the night, Lucilius and Tiro hid near the granary, having been tipped off that wagons were arriving. They saw the slaves dragging sacks of grain from the wagons together with heavy crates. Lucilius overheard one of the guards saying that a friend of his had discovered the crates were full of gold. Suddenly, Lucilius and Tiro were seized and the guards ordered to take them to Cantaber.		Civil war
16: nuptiae	familia Alexandri	Hettia, Alexander's mother Maelo, his father	Alexander's father and brothers are making bricks, his sisters preparing clothes. Hettia tells Maelo that Alexander is coming with some very important news. One of his brothers thinks that Alexander wants to ask his father for more money!		
	pater anxius	Alexander Maelo Hettia	Alexander told his parents all about Sabina and that he wanted to marry her. He intended to ask her that night.		

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16: nuptiae (cont'd)	anulus	Alexander	Alexander collected a ring he'd ordered.		
	vestimenta		Hettia and Alexandre's sisters prepared Sabina's wedding clothes and veil.		
	porcus fugitivus		Alexander's brothers were trying to catch a pig which was running down the streets. Eventually they found it hiding in the wedding clothes.	This and that	Wool and weaving
	consilium	Lucilius Cantaber Otho	When Lucilius challenged Cantaber about the huge amounts of gold in the granary, Otho, the commander of the province, stepped in. He explained to Lucilius that the Roman empire was in danger as long as Nero was emperor; he was responsible for burning the city and homes of his own citizens. When Lucilius was unconvinced, Otho reminded him that Seneca, a friend of Lucilius' own father, had been forced by Nero to take his own life. The gold was for Otho and he was planning to attack Nero with his legions. Did Lucilius want to help him?	Him, her, it, them	Marriage Husbands and wives
	dies nuptialis	Maelo Sabina Alexander	Alexander and Sabina are married		The ceremony
	ad lucem	Rufina	Rufina sits next to the bed of a child who is sick with a fever and urges him to drink.		Arachne