

Chapter	Story	Characters	Summary	Language notes	Cultural information
1: Subura	Sabina (pp. 7-11)	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 (p. 14)	The Subura The population of the city of Rome
	Lucilius (p. 16)	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 (p. 20)	Women at work Living in an insula
	nox (p. 21)	Faustus Rufina	A thief does well in the inn while Rufina works and Faustus drinks wine.		Rome in AD64
2: Roma	Via Flaminia (pp. 23-25)	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 has a block of flats.		First impressions (Rome) The growth of Rome
	Forum Boarium (p. 28)	Rufina Sabina Quartilla (an enslaved girl) A merchant	Sabina rescues the family's parrot which a merchant claims belongs to him.	Nominative and Accusative cases (p. 30)	What was a forum?
	Forum Romanum (p. 31)	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 (p. 34)	The Forum Romanum
	cella (p. 35)	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 (p. 36)	Romulus and Remus

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3: ludi	Circus Maximus (pp. 39-42)	Sabina Iulia, her friend Lucilius Faustus Faustus' friend	Everyone is at 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 (p. 43)	Public festivals
	palma (p. 46)	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 (p. 50)	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 (p. 51)	Charioteers Three phases of ruling

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4: dei	saxum (p. 56)	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 (p. 58)	Christianity Vesta State religion
	Vestalia (pp. 60-61)	Catia Cornelia	Catia explains to her son that all the women are bringing gifts to celebrate the Vestalia. Cornelia points out the beautifully decorated donkeys meets a friend, Catia the muck on the road.	'We' and 'you' (p. 62)	Homes of the gods
	omina (p. 64)	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 (p. 66)	Sacrifice Private worship
	dona (p. 69)	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

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5: aqua	febris (p. 72)	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 (p. 73)	
	thermae Neronianae (pp. 74-76)	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.	possum (p. 77)	The baths
	in latrina (p. 80)	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 (p. 83)	Public toilets Water supply Sanitation
	fuga: pars prima (p. 85)	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!

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6: servitium	de cella (pp. 88-89)	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 (p. 90)	
	Currax et Quartilla (p. 91)	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 (p. 94)	How were people enslaved? The life of a slave
	epistula (p. 96)		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
	fuga: pars secunda (p. 98)	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 (p. 100)	Seeking freedom Manumission Theseus and the Minotaur

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7: Londinium	amici (pp. 103-104)	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 (pp. 105-107)	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 (p. 111)	Londinium Made in Londinium
	Celer (p. 112)	Gisco Curax	Gisco tells Curax 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 (p. 113)	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 (p. 116)	Food Romans invading

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8: Britannia	gladius (pp. 120-122)	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) (p. 123)	Britannia
	Luccus I (p. 126)	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 soldier.		
	Luccus II (p. 127)	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 (p. 130)	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 make out. She and Gisco quarrel about it.		The Druids
	heros (p. 132)	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 (p. 132)	The Amazons

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9: rebellio	Camulodunum I (p. 136)		A messenger took a letter to the procurator. Meanwhile, Boudica was rousing her people against the Romans.		
	Camulodunum II (p. 137)	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 remaining veterans had hidden. Boudica then set off towards London.	The dative case (p. 138)	Chain of command
	Septimus revenit (p. 140)	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 feels her life with Currax and a mistress she knows would be better than losing contact with Currax.	The dative plural (p. 141)	The forces Women and war
	umbra (p. 144)	Catia (telling the story)	Boudica's forces arrived in London. Catia, her parents and Gisco went into the city to rescue 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 (p. 145)	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 (p. 146)	Fenwick Treasure Why join the army?
	proelium (pp. 148-149)	Gisco (telling the story)	The Roman army and Boudica's troops faced each other. Although they were outnumbered, the Romans had better tactics and destroyed the Britons. Gisco saw Luccus and at first wanted to spare him. However, when he saw the young man holding the sword stolen from Catia's family, he was reminded of their deaths and killed him.		Resistance

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10: Aquae Sulis	pax Romana (pp. 151-152)	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 (p. 153)	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 (p. 157)	Aquae Sulis Different gods
	senex ignotus (p. 158)	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 (p. 160)	Curses
	vox crudelis (p. 161)	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 the sword.		Military life The people of Roman Britain
	vale (p. 165)	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 is about to tell his story when Lucio whispers to Faustus that 'he has prepared everything'. Faustus tells Sabina that she must leave the city.		The Gorgons

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11: mare	Ostia (pp. 167-168)	Sabina Lucrio Rufina	By night, Lucrio and Rufina take Sabina to the river, where they sail to the port of Ostia. They look for a ship belonging to Marcus, a friend of Faustus. Sabina makes an offering to Neptune, and Rufina to her own god. After handing over money and a brooch to Sabina, Lucrio and Rufina say goodbye to her.		Romans and the sea
	ad Galliam (p. 170)	Sabina Alexander A sailor	On the voyage, Sabina gets to know Alexander. She also listens as one of the sailors begins to tell a story about pirates...	The genitive case (p. 171)	The first sailors Underwater archaeology Navigation and maps
	piratae (p. 174)	The sailor (telling the story)	The sailor tells 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 (p. 176)	Dangers at sea
	tempestas I (p. 177)	Sabina Alexander	On the voyage, Sabina is afraid for the safety of her father back in the Subura.		
	tempestas II (pp. 178-179)	Sabina Alexander	A huge storm arises which terrified the crew and threatens to overwhelm the ship. Alexander holds onto Sabina. Eventually, the storm subsides, and the ship reaches Arles.	-ne and -que (p. 180)	Travelling by sea Pirates in the Mediterranean Sea

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12: incendium	fumus (pp. 183-184)	Lucrio Rufina	Meanwhile, back in Ostia, after watching Marcus' ship sail away, Lucrio and Rufina return to Rome. They see flames and the river completely blocked by small boats and ships.		
	flammae (p. 185)	Lucrio (telling the story) Rufina	The whole city is burning, including the temple of Vesta. Rufina tells Lucrio to help the firemen while she returns to the Subura. Lucrio is beaten by one of the firemen and falls to the ground, overcome by the heat and the smoke	Giving orders (p. 187)	Fighting the fire Vesta and Vulcan
	incendium in Subura (188-189)	Catia Quartilla Currax Gisco	As the whole city is engulfed in flames, there is panic in the Subura. Leaving Currax outside, Catia and Quartilla try to reach Catia's son, who was asleep in the apartment building. Gisco returns and asks Currax where Catia and his son are. At that moment, Gisco grabs Currax as the whole block collapses into the street.	Vocative case (p. 190)	Fuel and fire After the fire Finding a scapegoat Domus Aurea
	fures (p. 194)	Chilo Proclus Faustus	Chilo, pleased that his friend Proclus is safe, suggests they loot the deserted shops. As they eat and drink in a bar, Chilo is attacked by someone defending the bar. Chilo hits him with a wine jar and the thieves leave. Faustus, with blood flowing from his head, dies.		What caused the Great Fire of Rome? - The ancient sources - The modern experts - The suspects Prometheus

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13: Arelate	prima luce (pp. 199-201)		Sabina walks through the streets of Arles and reaches a bakery where the men are already working.	Relative clauses (p. 204)	How to build a Roman town (10 easy steps)
	in pistrino (p. 205)	Sabina Poppillus, the baker Letta, his wife Alexander	Sabina is working in the bakery with Poppillus, the baker, and his wife Letta. They have been looking after Sabina for three months. On hearing a noise outside, they find Alexander has been attacked by Poppillus' goose. Letta whispers that Alexander only wants to be with Sabina, but he blushes and claims he'd come to invite them all to the theatre.		
	in theatro (pp. 206-207)	Poppillus Sabina Alexander Letta	At the theatre, Alexander is annoyed that Poppillus and Letta have sat between him and Sabina. He points out a mosaic which he himself has made. The pantomime they are watching is the story of Pyramus and Thisbe, whose experience is mirrored by that of Alexander and Sabina!		The theatre
	sub vesperum (p. 210)	Darius Gabrus Two actors	At the end of the day, an old actor, Gabrus, collapses. Darius, his fellow actor, suggests he is now too old. Gabrus knows it is true but is worried about how he will live - he has no family. One actor suggests he could beg in the streets, another that he could tell stories in the inns. Darius offers him money that their patron has given them - he can live well for a few days. That night, Gabrus sleeps under the aqueduct. (Alternative endings: Gabrus is robbed of his money or two brothers offers him a home)	Relative pronouns (p. 211)	Making bread Pyramus and Thisbe

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14: artifex	in officina fabrorum (pp. 215-216)	Sabina Alexander	Sabina passes Alexander's workshop and he shows her the mosaics he is making. He asks her if she wants to help and she agrees to come the next day.	The future tense (p. 217)	Creating mosaics
	autumnus (p. 220)	Sabina Philetus Alexander	Sabina, now working as a mosaic maker, tells Philetus that Alexander has received a letter from his parents' and is very happy. Alexander admits to himself that he loves Sabina and says he had something very important to ask her. Obviously nervous, he asks 'Will you be my ... assistant?' Sabina is astounded. Alexander tells her he wants her to come with him to Lusitania to work.		Mosaic pattern books
	manere aut abire (p. 222)	Poppillus Sabina Letta	Sabina doesn't know what to do. Letta urges her to seize the opportunity to see new places with Alexander although she is amazed that he has not asked Sabina to marry him. Sabina decides to pray to Minerva.	Comparison (p. 223)	
	in metallo (pp. 224-226)	Lucilius The manager A slave	Lucilius visits a mine where the manager explains the processes to him, but admits that 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. The manager denies it and tries to change the subject. Lucilius quietly asks Tiro to find out what he can from the enslaved men about Cantaber.		Mining at Las Medulas Mining techniques Women

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15: villa	in culina/in horto (pp. 232-233)		A tribune is to visit Cantaber's house on the next day: the girls discuss the tribune's beautiful eyes. In the garden, two enslaved men argue about how hard each of them is working and are warned that Cantaber is angry when he sees slaves not working carefully ...		Country estates
	in villa Cantabri (p. 236)	Lucilius Tiro Sabina Alexander	While Tiro talks to the slaves, Lucilius recognises Sabina, who tells him that her father 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 (p. 237)	
	cena (p. 238)	Lucilius Cantaber Alexander Sabina	Lucilius tries to find out from Cantaber how much gold the mine he had visited actually produces. Hiding his anger, Cantaber claims the wagons are almost empty – he would be better off looking after farms than mines. Lucilius does not believe him but makes 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.	Indirect statements – Perfect main verbs (p. 239) Indirect statements – se or eum? (p. 243)	Dinner parties Menus
	post cenam (pp. 244-245)	Lucilius Tiro	In the middle of the night, Lucilius and Tiro hide near the granary, having been tipped off that wagons were arriving. They see the slaves dragging sacks of grain from the wagons together with heavy crates. Lucilius overhears one of the guards saying that the crates are full of gold. Suddenly, Lucilius and Tiro are seized and the guards ordered to take them to Cantaber.		Civil war

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16: nuptiae	familia Alexandri (pp. 247-248)	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 (p. 249)	Alexander Maelo Hettia	Alexander tells his parents all about Sabina and that he wants to marry her. He intends to ask her that night.		
	anulus (p. 249)	Alexander	Alexander collects a ring he'd ordered.		
	vestimenta (p. 250)		Hettia and her daughters prepare Sabina's wedding clothes and veil.		
	porcus fugitivus (p. 251)		Alexander's brothers are trying to catch a pig which is running down the streets. Eventually they find it hiding in the wedding clothes.	This and that (p. 252)	Wool and weaving
	consilium (p. 254)	Lucilius Cantaber Otho	When Lucilius challenges Cantaber about the huge amounts of gold in the granary, Otho, the commander of the province, steps in. He claims that the Roman empire is in danger as long as Nero is emperor: he is responsible for burning the city and homes of his own citizens. Otho tells Lucilius that Seneca, a friend of Lucilius' own father, has been forced by Nero to take his own life. The gold is for Otho and he is planning to attack Nero with his legions. Does Lucilius want to help him?	Him, her, it, them (p. 255)	Marriage Husbands and wives
	dies nuptialis (p. 260)	Maelo Sabina Alexander	Alexander and Sabina are married		The ceremony
	ad lucem (p. 262)	Rufina	Rufina sits next to the bed of a child, who is sick with a fever, and urges him to drink.		Arachne