



Chapter 3: Comprehension

EXERCISE 3.10: AN UNLUCKY GATEWAY



1. lines 1-2: *ōlim Vēientēs contrā Rōmānōs fortiter pugnābant. Rōmānī nōn laetī erant quod Vēientēs timēbant.*

What do we know about the Veii? Give 2 details.

- _____
- _____ [2]

2. lines 2-3: *sed Fabiī erant gēns clārissima. omnēs Fabiī - patrēs et filiī - nōn timēbant.*

How did the Fabii feel about the Veii? _____

_____ [1]

3. lines 3-5: *'nōn difficile est,' inquit, 'nōbis contrā Vēientēs pugnāre. in multīs bellīs saepe gladiīs pugnāvimus! saepe hastīs pugnāvimus! saepe in ingentibus bellīs vīcimus.'*

Why were the Fabii so confident that they would win against the Veii? _____

_____ [2]



4. lines 5-6: 'bonum est Rōma exīre! facile est vincere. sōlī pugnābimus!'

What did the Veii offer to do and why? _____
_____ [1]

5. line 7: tum Rōmānī laetī erant; Fabiōs laudāvērunt.

How did the Romans respond? _____ [1]

6. lines 7-8: Fabiī ad bellum īvērunt; sed per iānuam dextram iverunt. nōn fēlīx erat per iānuam dextram īre.

The Fabii set out to war through the right hand archway. Why was it a bad idea to do this? _____
_____ [1]

7. line 9: prīmum fēlīcēs erant: multōs cēpērunt et interfēcērunt.

How were the Fabii lucky at first? _____
_____ [1]

8. lines 10-11: sed tum neglegentēs erant: erant magnae īnsidiae; Fabiī Vēientēs nōn cōspexērunt.

How did things then start to go badly for the Fabii? _____
_____ [1]

9. line 11: subitō Vēientēs hastās et sagittās iēcērunt. Fabiōs interfēcērunt.

How did the Veii kill the Fabii? _____
_____ [1]

10. line 12: uxōrēs et filiae nōn laetae erant: 'deī īrātī erant,' inquiunt. 'Fabiōs pūnīvērunt'

What reason did the wives and daughters of the Fabii give for the deaths of the Fabii?
_____ [1]

11. a. The Fabii were fearless. Do you think their fate was fair? Explain your answer with reference to details from the story. _____

_____ [2]



b. Write a moral for this story. _____
_____ [1]

Grammar questions

1. line 1: *olim Vēientēs contrā Rōmānōs fortiter pugnābant.*

Give an example of an adverb from this sentence. Translate it into English.

_____ [1]

2. lines 2-3: *Rōmānī nōn laetī erant quod Vēientēs timēbant.*

Give an example of an imperfect tense verb from this sentence and translate it into English.

_____ [1]

3. line 4: *in multīs bellīs saepe gladiīs pugnāvimus! saepe hastīs pugnāvimus!*

a. What case is *multīs bellīs* and why? _____ [1]

b. How would you translate *hastīs*? _____ [1]

4. line 8: *nōn fēlīx erat per iānuam dextram ire.*

What part of speech is *ire*? Translate this word. _____ [1]