



Chapter 6: Comprehension

EXERCISE 6.5: TARQUIN AND THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS



1. line 1: Tarquinius Superbus erat Rōmānōrum rēx septimus.

Who was Tarquinius Superbus? _____ [1]

2. line 2: Sibylla novem librōs habēbat.

How many books did the Sibyl have? _____ [1]

3. lines 2-3: Sibylla librōs Tarquiniō ostendit. 'eme librōs meōs,' inquit Sibylla, 'et dā mihi multum aurum.'

Why did the Sibyl show the books to Tarquinius? _____ [1]



4. line 4: Tarquinius librōs emere nōlēbat: 'nōlō multum aurum dare,' respondit Tarquinius.

Why did Tarquinius not want to buy the books? _____
_____ [1]

5. lines 5-7: Sibylla irāta erat. trēs librōs incendit. iterum librōs Tarquiniō ostendit, sed sex librōs ostendit, non novem. 'nunc librōs meōs eme!' inquit Sibylla, 'et dā mihi multum aurum.'

a. Why did the Sibyl burn three of the books? _____
_____ [1]

b. What did the Sibyl do with the remaining six books? _____
_____ [1]

6. lines 13-14: 'nōlō librōs tuōs emere. nōlō multum aurum dare. cūr iterum librōs tuōs mihi ostendistī?'

Consider the style of Tarquinius' answer: how did he emphasise that he still did not want to buy the books? _____
_____ [1]

7. lines 10-12: tum iterum Sibylla trēs librōs incendit. 'librī meī sānctissimī sunt. librī meī multa verba deōrum habent. itaque librī meī auxilium Rōmānīs ferre possunt.

What did the Sibyl do next to persuade Tarquinius to buy the books? _____
_____ [2]

8. lines 13-14: Tarquinius obstupefactus erat. 'magnopere vīs mē librōs tuōs emere,' respondit Tarquinius. 'verba tua mihi persuāsērunt.'

Why do you think that Tarquinius eventually agreed to buy the books? _____
_____ [1]

9. lines 16-17: Rōmānī tamen laetī erant. 'librī Sibyllae sunt nostrī!' clāmāvērunt. 'verba deōrum in librīs Sibyllae sunt; verbīs deōrum crēdimus.'

Why were the Romans happy? _____
_____ [1]



10. line 13-14: multōs annōs Rōmānī librōs Sibyllae habēbant et multōs annōs verbīs deōrum crēdēbant.

For how long did the Romans have and trust the Sibylline books? _____
_____ [1]

11. Do you think Tarquinius acted wisely in this story? Explain your answer with reference to details from the story. _____

_____ [3]

Grammar questions

1. line 5 and line 10: librōs tuōs; librī meī

Identify the case, number and gender of each of these noun and adjective pairs. _____

_____ [2]

2. line 8: audī mea verba

Change the imperative in this phrase from singular to plural. _____ [1]

3. line 13: multos annos Romani libros Sibyllae habebant

There are two accusative nouns here, and each is accusative for a different reason. Write out each one and explain why it is in the accusative.

- _____
- _____ [2]