



Chapter 8: Comprehension

EXERCISE 8.8: CICERO AND HIS DAUGHTER



Read lines 1-6: *Cicerō filiā cārissimā habēbat ... solitūdō est amīcus.*

Summarise the story so far.



1. line 7: Cicerō ad vīllam Atticī adiit.

Where did Cicero go? _____ [1]

2. lines 7-8: Atticus plūrimōs librōs Graecōs habēbat. Cicerō hōs librōs Graecōs legēbat

What are we told about the books which Cicero read? _____
_____ [1]

3. lines 8-9: 'librōs, quōs virī dē dolōre scrīpsērunt, legere volō,' inquit Cicerō.

What sort of books did Cicero say he wanted to read? _____
_____ [1]

4. lines 9-10: 'hī librī meliōrēs sunt mihī quam librī quōs virī dē laetitiā scrīpsērunt. mihī hī librī magistrī erunt.'

Explain why Cicero choose to read these books rather than books about happiness. _____

_____ [3]

5. lines 10-11: Cicerō, postquam dē dolōre lēgit, librum suum scrīpsit

What did Cicero do after he read about grief? _____
_____ [1]

6. lines 11-12: 'nunc ego quoque sum vir quī dē dolōre scrīpsit: huic librō novō nōmen est 'cōnsōlātiō'.'

What title did Cicero give his book? Why do you think he chose this name? _____

_____ [2]

7. lines 13-15: multī amīcī Cicerōnis ad eum epistolās scrīpsērunt: 'nōlī semper lacrimāre,' scrīpsērunt amīcī. 'omnēs hominēs interdum lacrimant; sed tum necesse est alia facere.'

How did Cicero's friends try to console him, and what did they advise that he should do?

_____ [2]



8. lines 16-19: 'ego sum trīstior quam illī hominēs,' respondit Cicerō. 'illī hominēs erant nōbilēs et clārī; ego nōn iam sum cōsul, nōn iam cīvēs mē laudant; nunc senex sum. Explain why Cicero thought he was more sad than other men who grieve. _____

[3]

9. lines 19-20: mihī filia cārīor erat quam omnia. nunc filia mea est mortua. nunc nihil habeō.'

- a. Cicero said that after his daughter's death, he had nothing. Explain what he meant by this.

[1]

- b. How does Cicero's use of language make us feel sorry for him? You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order emphasises the reasons to pity him. You should discuss two Latin words or phrases.

[2]

10. What does Cicero's response to his daughter's death tell us about Cicero and about his relationship with his daughter? Are you surprised that his friends' advice did not comfort him?

[3]

Grammar questions

1. line 7: Atticus plūrimōs librōs Graecōs habēbat.

Of which adjective is *plūrimōs* the superlative form? _____ [1]



2. line 17: *illī* hominēs erant nōbilēs et clārī

Identify and explain the case of *illī*. _____ [1]

3. line 17-18: *ego* nōn iam sum cōnsul, nōn iam cīvēs *mē* laudant

Identify and explain the case of the personal pronouns *ego* and *mē* in this sentence. _____

_____ [2]

4. line 19: *mihī* filia cārrior erat quam omnia.

Identify the comparative adjective in this sentence. State what case it is in and why it is in this case.

_____ [1]