



## Chapter 12: Comprehension

### EXERCISE 12.7: BOUDICCA IS DEFEATED



Read lines 1-15: eō tempore ... cōpiae Suētōnii superābuntur.

Summarise the story so far.

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1. lines 16-18: Boudicca, tamen, magnopere errāvit. iūssit plūrimōs Britannōs proelium spectāre: 'uxōrēs liberōsque colligite!' inquit. 'filiās sorōrēsque colligite! plaustra trahite!' We are told that Boudicca got things badly wrong: what orders did she give? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [3]

2. lines 18-19: 'in plastrīs sedentēs uxōrēs liberīque hoc proelium spectābunt; optimum erit spectāre nōs Rōmānōs superantēs.'

a. Why did Boudicca want the wives and children to sit on their wagons and watch the battle? \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

b. What does this show about Boudicca's attitude to the battle? \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

3. lines 19-20: Boudicca nōn intellēxit Suētōnium esse ducem optimum et mīlitēs perītōs habēre.

Why was Boudicca wrong to be so confident about the battle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

4. lines 20-22: ubi tempus proeliī aderat, plastrīs tractīs, multae uxōrēs, liberī, filiae et sorōrēs convēnērunt et proelium spectābant.

What happened when it was time for the battle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

5. lines 23-25: Rōmānī fortiter contrā Britannōs pugnāvērunt; multī Britannī vulnerātī cadēbant. 'effugite!' clāmāvit Boudicca. 'quam celerrimē effugite! hodiē nōn vīcimus; effugite et fortasse posteā iterum pugnābimus.'

a. When many Britons were wounded and fell, what did Boudicca tell her forces to do and why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]



b. How does the language in Boudicca's speech convey her panic? You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order emphasises this panic. You should discuss two Latin words or phrases. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

6. lines 25-27: uxōrēs autem plūrimae et liberī prope proelium collēctī erant; in tractīs plaustrīs sedēbant. tum Boudicca dēspērābat: 'quō effugere possumus?' magnō cum clāmōre inquit. 'viae plaustrīs nostrīs clausae sunt'

Why did Boudicca start to despair? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

7. lines 28-29: 'audācior eram; nōn intellēxī Rōmānōs mīlitēs optimōs esse. nunc superātī sumus.'

Why did Boudicca think she had been too bold? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

8. lines 29-31: deinde Boudicca et multī Britannī sē interfēcērunt: 'superātī sumus,' dēspērantēs inquit, 'nec tamen erimus servī Rōmānōrum.'

Why did the Boudicca and many Britons kill themselves? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

9. From reading this story, what is your opinion of Boudicca as a leader? Explain your answer.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [3]



### Grammar questions

1. lines 19-20: Boudicca nōn intellēxit Suētōnium esse ducem optimum

Identify the form of the verb *esse* and explain why it is used here. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

2. lines 21-22: *plastrīs tractīs, multae uxōrēs, liberī, filiae et sorōrēs convēnērunt et proelium spectābant.*

Identify and explain the case of the words *plastrīs tractīs*. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

3. You have met several words which are easy to confuse with the relative pronoun *quī, quae, quod*. Two of them are in the last paragraph of this story. Give the meaning of each of the following.

a. *quam celerrimē* \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

b. *quō effugere possumus?* \_\_\_\_\_ [1]