

Legionary Life

23rd Ianuarius 121

Today is the day! I cant believe it! The day I, Atticus Quintus, join the Roman Army! The *Legio VI Victrix* are passing through the village today on the hunt for new recruits. I've been working so hard already to make sure that I can pass all the tests and become a legionary.

It has always been my dream to be a centurion and to have the opportunity to join the ranks of *VI Victrix*, created by the revered Emperor Augustus himself, is more than I could've asked for. My friend, Sirius, cannot believe it either! It's unfortunate that he doesn't turn seventeen for another few weeks. If their visit wasn't quite so soon, we could have been in the same *contubernium* sharing army life together! Hopefully, he will have the opportunity to join up soon so we can be reunited. I am really going to miss him when I leave for training. That is, if I pass all of the tests...



25th Ianuarius 121

I've just been given the best news I could ever imagine – I'm in! I passed all the tests! Just got to prove I'm a Roman citizen and then the training begins! I cant wait!

I don't know how to tell Sirius though... I know he'll be pleased for me but I really wish he could come too. We always planned to leave as legionaries together but this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Who knows whether *Legio VI Victrix* will ever be in Slayton again!

28th Ianuarius 121

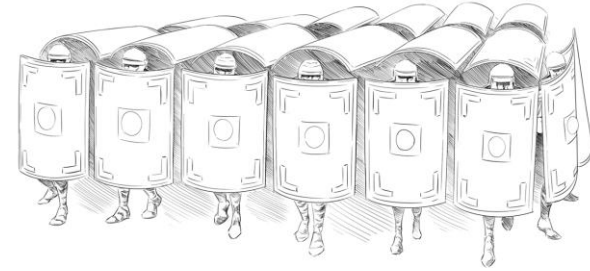
I'm on my way! Everything is packed up and I have said goodbye to Sirius. It was heart-wrenching but I know he's proud of me. The next four months are going to be a challenge with all of the physical training we will be completing. We begin properly tomorrow once we have set up camp and I have met the seven other legionary trainees that will make up my *contubernium*.



9th Februarius 121

Training camp is harder than I ever expected! We're only a week in and I'm broken. Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting. Even my blisters have blisters! It will be worth it though.

We begin every morning by packing up our kit and donning our entire uniform. We have to wear a tunic, full iron body armour and a *cassis* on our head. If that wasn't heavy enough, we also have a bag with all our food rations, clothes, a cooking pot and short spade in. To top it off, we have to carry all of our weapons! Two spears, a *pugio* dagger, a shield and a short sword! Wearing the kit is hard enough but then we have to walk twenty Roman miles in under five hours. It's getting tougher every day but it will get easier... I hope!



27th Februarius 121

I am (finally) starting to feel like a legionary. In weapons training, I am becoming a master of the *pilum*. I can hit the target with almost every throw and the centurion is starting to take note. He even remembered my name yesterday!

My hand-to-hand combat with the training *gladius* is coming on too. The paired battles are getting better by the day - I even managed to defeat Cadmus today. He is the best trainee in our group. No-one has managed to beat him before. He threw his sword to the ground and stormed off after the scuffle. Everyone stared at me for the rest of the morning.

This afternoon, we had formation drills. We started with the *testudo*, or tortoise, formation which we use when we are marching into battle at an enemy fortification. We interlock our shields so that we are all protected from in front and from the sides. The soldiers at the back hold their *scuta* overhead so that should a *pilum* be thrown, it will not harm us.

We are going to start rehearsing the wedge formation tomorrow. I am looking forward to it as I hope to learn more skills with my *gladius*. You never know, I might even beat Cadmus in combat again!

Vocabulary

1. What does the word 'revered' mean?
2. Find and copy a phrase which means extremely upsetting in the paragraph beginning 'I'm on my way!'
3. Read the paragraph beginning 'We begin every morning'. What is the name given to a Roman legionary's helmet?
4. What are 'scuta'?

Summarise

1. Write one sentence to explain what we have learnt about the author in the first entry in his diary.
2. What two things did the author do before he set off on the 28th Ianuarius?
3. Summarise the physical training for a Roman legionary.
4. In one sentence, summarise what happens during weapons and formation training.

Retrieve

1. Who has written the diary?
2. How many people make up a 'contubernium'?
3. What weapons did a legionary carry?
4. Who does the author compete against in hand-to-hand combat?

Infer

1. Why is the author looking forward to joining *VI Victrix*?
2. How does the reader know that training is a difficult process?
3. Why is the author finding the training more difficult each day?
4. Why is the *testudo* formation also known as the 'tortoise'?

Predict

1. Read up to the end of the first diary entry. What do you think is going to happen next?
2. What do you think a 'contubernium' is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
3. Imagine you are completing the physical training with the author. How would you feel? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
4. Do you think that the author will become a legionary and finish his training? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Effect of language

1. What does the phrase 'That is, if I pass all of the tests...' tell you about how the author was feeling? How does it do this?
2. What does 'once-in-a-lifetime' tell you about how frequently legions of the army pass through Slayton?
3. What does the author mean when he says 'Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting'? What does this tell us about his character?
4. Why has the author written the word 'finally' in brackets? What effect does this have on the sentence?

Link ideas

1. Why was the author able to join the army? Why was his friend Sirius not able to? How do you know?
2. In the first entry, we learn Sirius cannot join the army. How will he feel when the author packs up to leave?
3. In what way does the image on page three support the information shared by the author?
4. How has the trainees' opinion of the author changed in the paragraph beginning 'My hand-to-hand combat'? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Compare

1. Compare how the author and his friend Sirius were feeling when they heard *Legio VI Victrix* were 'on the hunt for new recruits'. Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.
2. How is the author feeling on the 25th Ianuarius? How is this different to how he felt in the previous entry?
3. How is the training before enlisting in the army different to the training once joining? How do you know?
4. How are the characters of the author and Cadmus similar? How are they different?

Legionary Life

1. In the paragraph beginning 'It has always been my dream', which nine word phrase tells us that the author is feeling worried about whether he would be successful?

1 mark

2. 'Its getting tougher every day but it will get easier' What does this quote tell you about the author's character and personality? Explain how you know.

1 mark

3. 'I am (finally) starting to feel like a legionary. In weapons training, I am becoming a master of the pilum.' How does the author feel about his progress during his time in training? How do you know?

1 mark

4. How has the confidence of Atticus Quintus changed over the course of the text? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

3 marks

Legionary Life

1. In the paragraph beginning 'It has always been my dream', which nine word phrase tells us that the author is feeling worried about whether he would be successful?

1 mark for 'That is, if I pass all of the tests'.

1 mark

2. 'Its getting tougher every day but it will get easier' What does this quote tell you about the author's character and personality? Explain how you know.

1 mark for reference to Atticus being determined or

hardworking because he is not going to give up

1 mark

3. 'I am (finally) starting to feel like a legionary. In weapon's training, I am becoming a master of the pilum.' How does the author feel about his progress during his time in training? How do you know?

1 mark for reference to Atticus feeling proud of his progress

because he is acknowledging that he is 'becoming a

master' and is 'starting to feel like a legionary.'

1 mark

4. How has the confidence of Atticus Quintus changed over the course of the text? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one evidenced.

Acceptable points for the confidence in the beginning: low

worried, nervous etc. Example evidence: 'That is, if I pass all

of the tests'; 'The next four months are going to be a

challenge'; 'I'm broken'; 'Its getting tougher every day'; 'it will

get easier... I hope!'

Acceptable points for change: improved, confident etc.

Example evidence: 'I am (finally) starting to feel like a

legionary'; 'master'; 'I might even beat Cadmus in combat

again' 'learn more skills'.

3 marks

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← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 1

Vocabulary (2a): What does the word 'revered' mean?

Retrieve (2b): Who has written the diary?

Summarise (2c): Write one sentence to explain what we have learnt about the author in the first entry in his diary.

Infer (2d): Why is the author looking forward to joining *VI Victrix*?

Predict (2e): Read up to the end of the first diary entry. What do you think is going to happen next?

Link ideas (2f): Why was the author able to join the army? Why was his friend Sirius not able to? How do you know?

Effect of language (2g): What does the phrase 'That is, if I pass all of the tests...' tell you about how the author was feeling? How does it do this?

Compare (2h): Compare how the author and his friend Sirius were feeling when they heard *Legio VI Victrix* were 'on the hunt for new recruits'. Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Each question in this box is the first question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

QUESTION SELECTION BOX 2 →

Vocabulary (2a): Find and copy a phrase which means extremely upsetting in the paragraph beginning 'I'm on my way!'

Retrieve (2b): How many people make up a 'contubernium'?

Summarise (2c): What two things did the author do before he set off on the 28th Ianuarius?

Infer (2d): How does the reader know that training is a difficult process?

Predict (2e): What do you think a 'contubernium' is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Link ideas (2f): In the first entry, we learn Sirius cannot join the army. How will he feel when the author packs up to leave?

Effect of language (2g): What does 'once-in-a-lifetime' tell you about how frequently legions of the army pass through Slayton?

Compare (2h): How is the author feeling on the 25th Ianuarius? How is this different to how he felt in the previous entry?

Each question in this box is the second question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.



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← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 3

Vocabulary (2a): Read the paragraph beginning 'We begin every morning'. What is the name given to a Roman legionary's helmet?

Retrieve (2b): What weapons did a legionary carry?

Summarise (2c): Summarise the physical training for a Roman legionary.

Infer (2d): Why is the author finding the training more difficult each day?

Predict (2e): Imagine you are completing the physical training with the author. How would you feel? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Link ideas (2f): In what way does the image on page three support the information shared by the author?

Effect of language (2g): What does the author mean when he says 'Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting'? What does this tell us about his character?

Compare (2h): How is the training before enlisting in the army different to the training once joining? How do you know?

Each question in this box is the third question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

QUESTION SELECTION BOX 4 →

Vocabulary (2a): What are 'scuta'?

Retrieve (2b): Who does the author compete against in hand-to-hand combat?

Summarise (2c): In one sentence, summarise what happens during weapons and formation training.

Infer (2d): Why is the *testudo* formation also known as the 'tortoise'?

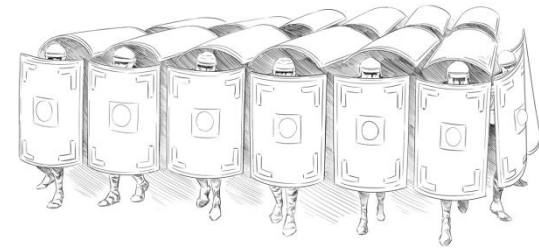
Predict (2e): Do you think that the author will become a legionary and finish his training? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Link ideas (2f): How has the trainees' opinion of the author changed in the paragraph beginning 'My hand-to-hand combat'? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Effect of language (2g): Why has the author written the word 'finally' in brackets? What effect does this have on the sentence?

Compare (2h): How are the characters of the author and Cadmus similar? How are they different?

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27th Februarius 121

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We are going to start rehearsing the wedge formation tomorrow. I am looking forward to it as I hope to learn more skills with my *gladius*. You never know, I might even beat Cadmus in combat again!

Legionary Life - Answer Matrix

by skill	by skill	by skill	by skill
<p>Vocabulary (2a) 1 What does the word 'revered' mean? Respected or admired</p>	<p>Vocabulary (2a) 2 Find and copy a phrase which means extremely upsetting in the paragraph beginning 'I'm on my way!' Heart-wrenching</p>	<p>Vocabulary (2a) 3 Read the paragraph beginning 'We begin every morning'. What is the name given to a Roman legionary's helmet? A cassis</p>	<p>Vocabulary (2a) 4 What are 'scuta'? Shields</p>
<p>Retrieve (2b) 1 Who has written the diary? Atticus Quintus</p>	<p>Retrieve (2b) 2 How many people make up a 'contubernium'? Eight</p>	<p>Retrieve (2b) 3 What weapons did a legionary carry? They had to carry two spears, a dagger (pugio), a shield and a short sword.</p>	<p>Retrieve (2b) 4 Who does the author compete against in hand-to-hand combat? Cadmus</p>
<p>Summarise (2c) 1 Write one sentence to explain what we have learnt about the author in the first entry in his diary. We learn he is a 17-year-old boy called Atticus who is going to join the army because he wants to become a centurion.</p>	<p>Summarise (2c) 2 What two things did the author do before he set off on the 28th Ianuarius? He packed up his belongings and said goodbye to his friend, Sirius.</p>	<p>Summarise (2c) 3 Summarise the physical training for a Roman legionary. They have to wear their full uniform, carry their weapons and walk twenty miles in less than five hours.</p>	<p>Summarise (2c) 4 In one sentence, summarise what happens during weapons and formation training. Recruits learn to use a pilum (spear) and a gladius (short sword) in hand-to-hand combat as well as how to move in formations.</p>
<p>Infer (2d) 1 Why is the author looking forward to joining VI Victrix? It is a well-known legion in the Roman Army that was set up by an impressive leader.</p>	<p>Infer (2d) 2 How does the reader know that training is a difficult process? It takes a long time - four months - and is a challenge.</p>	<p>Infer (2d) 3 Why is the author finding the training more difficult each day? The training is taking its toll on Atticus's body. He is aching and hurting lots making the physical activity harder each day. We know this as he says 'Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting. Even my blisters have blisters!'</p>	<p>Infer (2d) 4 Why is the testudo formation also known as the 'tortoise'? The soldiers use their shields (scuta) to form a shell like a tortoise to protect themselves.</p>

Legionary Life - Answer Matrix

by selection box	by skill →			
	Predict (2e) 1 Read up to the end of the first diary entry. What do you think is going to happen next? Various answers, for example: Atticus will join up and begin his training so that he can become a legionary but he finds training difficult to pass.	Predict (2e) 2 What do you think a 'contubernium' is? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. Various answers, for example: A contubernium is a group in the army that camp together. Atticus says he will 'set up camp' with the seven others in his contubernium.	Predict (2e) 3 Imagine you are completing the physical training with the author. How would you feel? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. Accept answers justifying an opinion with evidence. For example, I would be exhausted because I've never walked twenty miles before.	Predict (2e) 4 Do you think that the author will become a legionary and finish his training? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. Various answers, giving evidence. For example: Yes he will become a legionary because he is getting better at the training.
	Link ideas (2f) 1 Why was the author able to join the army? Why was his friend Sirius not able to? How do you know? You must be 17 to join the army which Atticus was, but Sirius is still 16 so he cannot. We know this because it says 'he doesn't turn seventeen for another few weeks'.	Link ideas (2f) 2 In the first entry, we learn Sirius cannot join the army. How will he feel when the author packs up to leave? Accept answers referring to the Sirius being disappointed or upset that he wasn't joining Atticus in the army.	Link ideas (2f) 3 In what way does the image on page three support the information shared by the author? The image shows us the uniform and weapons carried by a Roman legionary which helps us to visualise how difficult the twenty mile walk would be.	Link ideas (2f) 4 How has the trainees' opinion of the author changed in the paragraph beginning 'My hand-to-hand combat'? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. They were shocked at him beating Cadmus as before Cadmus was much better than Atticus.
	Effect of language (2g) 1 What does the phrase 'That is, if I pass all of the tests...' tell you about how the author was feeling? How does it do this? He was beginning to feel nervous about the tests he had to pass in order to join the army. We know this because the author uses an ellipsis to show his nerves.	Effect of language (2g) 2 What does 'once-in-a-lifetime' tell you about how frequently legions of the army pass through Slayton? The army didn't pass through very often because it was an opportunity Atticus probably wouldn't have again in his life.	Effect of language (2g) 3 What does the author mean when he says 'Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting'? What does this tell us about his character? It tells us he is aching after his exercise because he hasn't done such intense physical activity before.	Effect of language (2g) 4 Why has the author written the word 'finally' in brackets? What effect does this have on the sentence? It adds the author's thoughts to the sentence which tells us that it has taken him a long time to start to feel confident.
	Compare (2h) 1 Compare how the author and his friend Sirius were feeling when they heard <i>Legio VI Victrix</i> were 'on the hunt for new recruits'. Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. Accept answers referring to Atticus being excited to join up and Sirius being upset about being too young.	Compare (2h) 2 How is the author feeling on the 25th Ianuarius? How is this different to how he felt in the previous entry? Accept answers referring to him feeling overjoyed on the 25th and how at the end of the previous entry he was feeling nervous.	Compare (2h) 3 How is the training before enlisting in the army different to the training once joining? How do you know? The training before enlisting was not as strenuous as once Atticus was in the army. He says 'Muscles I didn't even know existed are hurting.'	Compare (2h) 4 How are the characters of the author and Cadmus similar? How are they different? Accept answers referring to them both being good at fighting. They are different because they have reacted differently to losses in the text. Cadmus is angry but Atticus has accepted he is not the best.