

## Stage 35 Culture Anticipation Guide

nōmen: \_\_\_\_\_

I. **Directions:** Read the following statements carefully and decide whether you *agree*, *disagree*, or *don't know*.

- If you *agree* with the statement, check the column marked **C = cōnsentiō** (*I agree* in Latin),
- If you *disagree*, check **D = dissentiō** (*I disagree*),
- If you *do not know*, check **N = nescio** (*I do not know*).

Use the Before Reading column.

Before reading...			After reading...			
C	D	N	Statement	V	F	Why?
			Very few wealthy Romans owned houses in the country.			
			Country villas were usually located in the mountains or on the coast – if possible, close enough to Rome that the owner could visit regularly.			
			Romans (who could afford it) liked villas with multiple dining rooms, private heated baths, and lots of land.			
			Many wealthy Romans spent a lot of their <b>ōtium</b> or free time on reading and writing.			
			Unlike the Greeks, Romans rarely wrote letters.			
			Since there was no private postal system, Romans who did send letters often had to give them to travelers who were going in the proper direction.			
			The only way to avoid fraud was for a Roman to personally deliver an important business letter himself.			

Before reading...				After reading...		
C	D	N	Statement	V	F	Why?
			Letters were normally written on <b>cērae</b> since parchment, or <b>charta</b> , was too expensive.			
			Many wealthy Romans had to use slaves to do the actual writing of their letters.			
			Famous Roman letter-writers kept copies of important letters for eventual publication.			
			Romans claimed to have invented three genres of literature: verse satire, epic, and letters.			
			The surviving letters of different Roman writers are very dissimilar to each other in structure, form, and style.			
			Due to the advanced publishing system in the Roman world, it was possible for Roman letter-writers (and other authors) to make a good living from the sale of copies of their books.			

II. **Directions:** Now read pp. 9-11 and 16-18 of **CLC Unit 4**. As you read, you will learn whether the statements above were true or false.

- If the statement is *true*, check **V = VĒRUM** (*True*) under “After Reading.”
- If the statement is *false*, check **F = FALSUM** (*False*) and explain *Why* in the space provided.

III. **Directions:** Think about these possible **Quaestiō Magna** topics.

- A. Imagine you are the **servus** or **libertus** of a wealthy Roman **vīlla** owner. For many years you have heard about your master's **vīlla rūstica**; today you are visiting for the first time. Describe what you see and hear on your visit – perhaps to your journal, or perhaps in a letter to a friend or loved one.
- B. It is often difficult for Americans today to imagine the differences in wealth between poor and rich Romans; it is especially difficult to imagine the scale and opulence of a large **vīlla rūstica** in comparison with the small houses and tiny apartments in which most Romans lived. Can you think of any structures anywhere in the world today that could be compared to a **vīlla rūstica** like Pliny's? What specific similarities and differences do you see?
- C. In a world of text messages, instant messages, and the occasional e-mail, the slow and formal process of Roman letter writing may seem completely foreign. But in both worlds, private messages do not necessarily remain private. What are the implications of this fact, both for the Romans and for us? What other areas of similarity and difference can you see between written communication in the Roman world and in our world?