

Life in ancient Rome

Kacy	<i>(At lunchtime, some students are chatting. Some students are playing with Rubik's Cube in the classroom while Peter is reading a book.)</i> <i>(Zoie enters the classroom.)</i>
Zoie	Wow, what are you doing? Reading books, playing the Rubik's Cube....seems you are all enjoying your free time now.
Jason K	Yeah, come and join us. Playing Rubik's Cube is great fun.
Peter	I like reading novels. All of us have our own interests.
Wendy	Yes, How about you, Zoie? What do you do during your free time?
Zoie	Well, I like listening to music and reading, just like Peter and the ancient Romans.
Jason	The Romans? Really? Did the Romans like reading? I thought the Romans just liked sports and fighting.
Zoie	Romans valued their free time. After dinner, adults and children usually pursue their own interests, such as music, art, dancing, reading, and sports. Let's take a look at Romans thousands of years ago.
	<i>A long time ago...</i>

Characters:

Marcus, a Roman citizen

Julia, Marcus's friend

Augustus, a wealthy Roman nobleman

Flavius, the head of the temple priests

Maximus, a gladiator

Romanus, a gladiator

(Scene 1: Marcus and Julia are walking together in a street in ancient Rome.)

Marcus: (excitedly) Julia, have you heard about the upcoming Roman festival?

Julia: (curiously) No, what is it about?

Marcus: (enthusiastically) It's a celebration of our great Roman culture! There will be chariot races, gladiator fights, and even performances in the theatre.

Julia: (impressed) Wow, that sounds amazing! Where will it be held?

Marcus: (proudly) It'll be held at the Colosseum, the great arena where our brave gladiators fight for glory.

Julia: (excitedly) I've never been to the Colosseum! Can we go together?

Marcus: (happily) Of course! Let's go tomorrow. (Julia: YES!)

(Scene 2: Augustus and Flavius are talking to each other at the Colosseum the next day.)

Augustus: (impatiently) Flavius, when will the festival start? I'm eager to see the gladiators in action.

Flavius: (calmly) Be patient, Augustus. The festival will start soon enough. We have to make sure everything is prepared for the people to worship at the temples before the entertainment begins.

Augustus: (nodding) I understand. It's just that I've heard so much about the gladiator fights. I'm excited to see them myself.

(Flavius nods and walks away.)

(Scene 3: Maximus is getting ready for the fight at the arena.)

Romanus: This is it.

Maximus: The moment we've been waiting for.

Romanus: I will prove myself as the greatest gladiator in Rome.

Maximus: Me too.

Maximus & Romanus: Let's go for it!

(The crowd cheers as the gladiators enter the arena. The fight begins, and Romanus wins.)

(Scene 4: Marcus and Julia are now at the public bath hall)

Julia: (contentedly) This is so relaxing. I can see why the Romans love the public baths.

Marcus: (nodding) It's a great way to unwind after a long day. I'm glad we came here.

Julia: (curiously) Marcus, why did the Romans spend so much money on sports and entertainments?

Marcus: (thoughtfully) I think it's because the Romans believed in enjoying life to the fullest. Sports and entertainments were a way for them to have fun and forget about their problems, even if it was just for a little while.

Julia: (smiling) I see. Well, I had a lot of fun at the festival today. Thank you for bringing me along, Marcus.

Marcus: (smiling back) You're welcome, Julia. It's my pleasure.

Julia: Let's enjoy our time.