

History Hackers: Roman Rescue

Reading Questions & Story Discussion Prompts



During and after reading each chapter...



- Three active listening tasks and questions are provided for display whilst a chapter is being read. These give focus to what children are listening out for or locating while they listen to the story.
- Five questions are provided for after each chapter has been read. These may be just for discussion or answered on whiteboards, verbally or as a short assessment of understanding.

Chapter 1: A Very Difficult Door

To think about while reading:

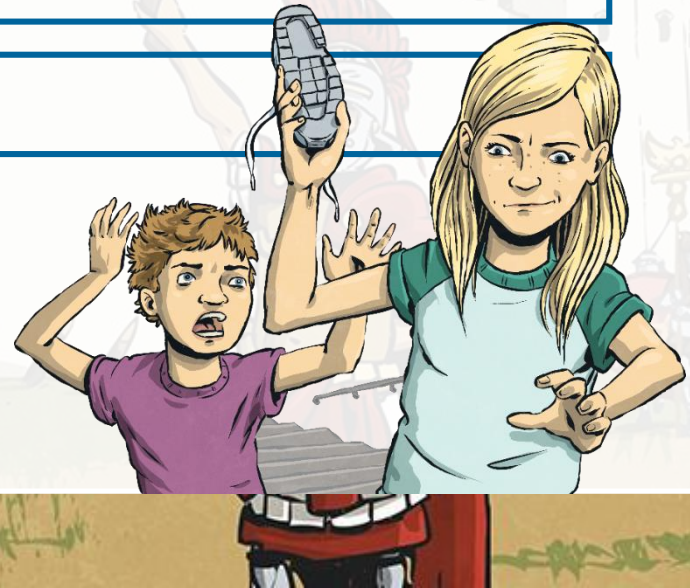
- 1 What would you do if you discovered a secret room in your house?
- 2 What impression do you get of Tilda and Charlie?
- 3 Are there any words in this chapter that you don't understand?



Chapter 1: A Very Difficult Door

After reading the chapter:

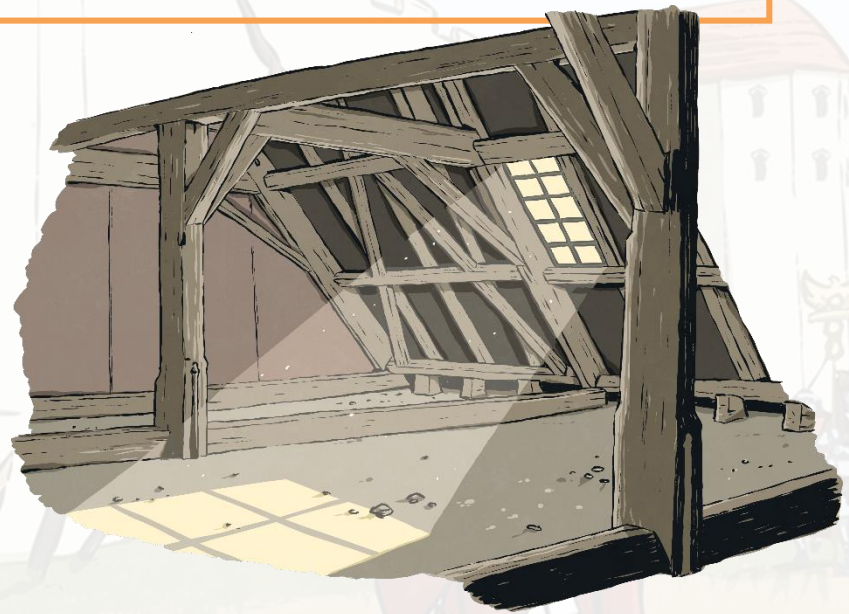
- 1 What are the names of the two children?
- 2 Why does Tilda want to investigate the secret room?
- 3 Why doesn't Charlie want to investigate the secret room?
- 4 What words would you use to describe the characters?
- 5 Which character are you most like?



Chapter 2: Disappointed by Dust

To think about while reading:

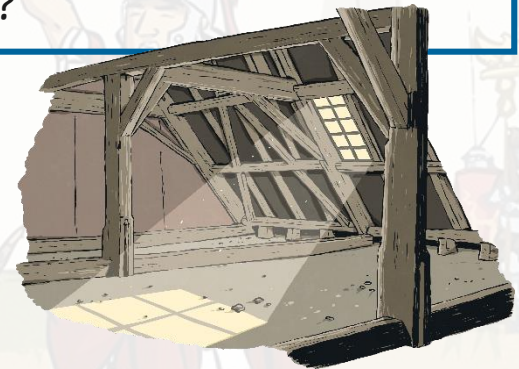
- 1 Why did Tilda feel 'robbed'?
- 2 Why do you think the room appeared to have never been used?
- 3 Why did Tilda jerk her head away from the wall?



Chapter 2: Disappointed by Dust

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What had Charlie hoped to find?
- 2 Why did Tilda gasp?
- 3 Who went into the secret room first?
- 4 What do you think the mystery room contains?
- 5 What do you predict the children will do next?



Chapter 3: Trapdoor Treasure Trove

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does the day become way more interesting?
- 2 How does the author compare the atmosphere in each room?
- 3 What treasures do the children see?



Chapter 3: Trapdoor Treasure Trove

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What was piled high on the desk?
- 2 What caught Tilda's attention?
- 3 What phrase is used to describe how excited Tilda felt?
- 4 Do you think the children were trespassing?
- 5 "Mum and Dad bought the house and all its contents – and this looks a lot like contents to me."
Do you agree with Charlie?



Chapter 4: An Impossible Possibility

To think about while reading:

- 1 What was the professor's note claiming?
- 2 Is time travel possible?
- 3 What hung off the cork board?



Chapter 4: An Impossible Possibility

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What was significant about the skull and crossbones?
- 2 Why was the hook labelled **Normans** empty?
- 3 What was discovered in the pouch labelled **Romans**?
- 4 What clues or evidence have the children gathered so far about time travel?
- 5 Who is your favourite character so far and why?



Chapter 5: A Tree with Secrets

To think about while reading:

- 1 What outfits are the children wearing?
- 2 What location had the children decided to explore?
- 3 Did the children blend in successfully?



Chapter 5: A Tree with Secrets

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How do the children attempt to blend in?
- 2 Why is Charlie described as being naïve?
- 3 Why did Tilda feel foolish?
- 4 How does Charlie's behaviour change during this chapter?
- 5 What do you predict will happen next?



Chapter 6: Rumbled by Romans

To think about while reading:

- 1 What had happened to Charlie?
- 2 What is the most noticeable difference between the two times?
- 3 Why was Charlie undecided about how to act?



Chapter 6: Rumbled by Romans

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Where did Charlie tuck the coins and ring?
- 2 Why did the building look familiar?
- 3 What adjectives and phrases are used to describe the Roman soldiers?
- 4 What impression do you get of Roman soldiers?
- 5 What would you say to the soldiers?



Chapter 7: A Tumble through Time

To think about while reading:

- 1 How was Charlie feeling and why?
- 2 What was Charlie trying to tell Tilda?
- 3 Does Tilda believe her younger brother?



Chapter 7: A Tumble through Time

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Why couldn't Tilda 'deny that something very strange had just happened'?
- 2 How has Tilda's confidence changed since Chapter 1?
- 3 What is the meaning of the word 'trepidation'?
- 4 What is the meaning of the word 'pristine'?
- 5 Based on the end of the chapter, what do you think will happen next?



Chapter 8: Living Statues

To think about while reading:

- 1 Where are the children?
- 2 Why was the building built so big?
- 3 What proved to be the wrong strategy and why?



Chapter 8: Living Statues

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What did the children hide behind?
- 2 What is meant by the phrase 'wild with disbelief'?
- 3 Why were the children made to feel 'wholly unwelcome'?
- 4 What weapons are mentioned?
- 5 What do we notice about Charlie's personality during this chapter?



Chapter 9: Fooled by His Own Fingers

To think about while reading:

- 1 Why didn't Charlie and Tilda hand over the coins?
- 2 Who is the smartest, Tilda or Charlie?
- 3 What challenge did Tilda set up?



Chapter 9: Fooled by His Own Fingers

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What is meant by the phrase 'defiant glare'?
- 2 What is meant by the word 'treason'?
- 3 Why wouldn't the tribune accept Charlie's apology?
- 4 Who saved the day?
- 5 Do you think Tilda and Charlie will be free to go now?



Chapter 10: Just Ordinary Children

To think about while reading:

- 1 How does Tilda try to negotiate?
- 2 Are the children treated fairly?
- 3 Why did Charlie wish they had never found the old map?



Chapter 10: Just Ordinary Children

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Are there any tricky words in this chapter that you did not understand?
- 2 Which weapons herded Tilda and Charlie close together?
- 3 What words highlight how forcefully the soldiers acted?
- 4 How were the children imprisoned?
- 5 Whose fault was the situation?



Chapter 11: The Wrong Bucket

To think about while reading:

- 1 Was life as a Roman slave enjoyable?
- 2 Is Charlie respectful?
- 3 What mistake does Charlie make?



Chapter 11: The Wrong Bucket

After reading the chapter:

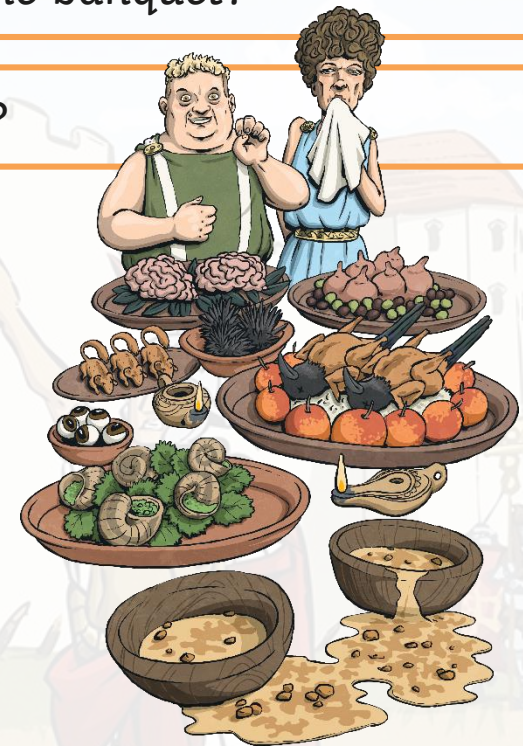
- 1 Why didn't Tilda and Charlie enjoy life as Roman slaves?
- 2 What happened when the siblings were separated?
- 3 Are there any words you find difficult to understand in this chapter?
- 4 What jobs are the slaves given to do?
- 5 What similarities and differences are there between modern-day life and Roman life?



Chapter 12: Charlie or the Bowl

To think about while reading:

- 1 What do you imagine the banquet room to look like?
- 2 What job do the slaves have to fulfil during the banquet?
- 3 What games do the guests play on the slaves?



Chapter 12: Charlie or the Bowl

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What food was on offer at the banquet?
- 2 Why do the guests want to be sick?
- 3 What is the meaning of the word 'reluctantly'?
- 4 Why do you think the guests do not want to insult the Emperor?
- 5 How do you predict that Charlie will react?



Chapter 13: Chop off Her Pretty Head

To think about while reading:

- 1 Why is Tilda not trusted?
- 2 What food was common during Roman times?
- 3 Are you surprised by the Emperor's reaction?



Chapter 13: Chop off Her Pretty Head

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What is meant by the phrase 'Charlie's disastrous antics'?
- 2 What job is Tilda required to complete?
- 3 Why is salt and milk used to cook the snails?
- 4 Why does Tilda think, 'I'd rather starve'?
- 5 What do you predict will happen to Tilda?



Chapter 14: The Exploding Emperor

To think about while reading:

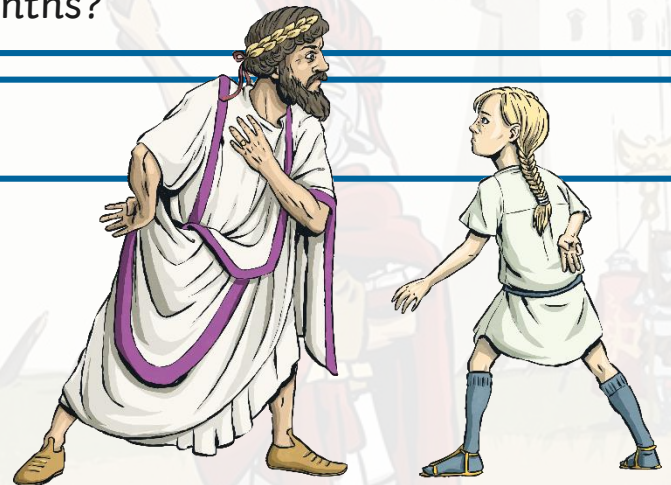
- 1 What is Micare?
- 2 What impression do you get of the Emperor's wife, Julia?
- 3 Why do you think Julia is acting this way?



Chapter 14: The Exploding Emperor

After reading the chapter:

- 1 Why did Tilda trust Julia?
- 2 How did the Emperor react when he lost the game?
- 3 What impression do you get when it says, 'a moment of silence that seemed to last an hour'?
- 4 What has the Emperor been wanting for months?
- 5 What is meant by the adjective 'brawny'?



Chapter 15: Escape Is a Smelly Business

To think about while reading:

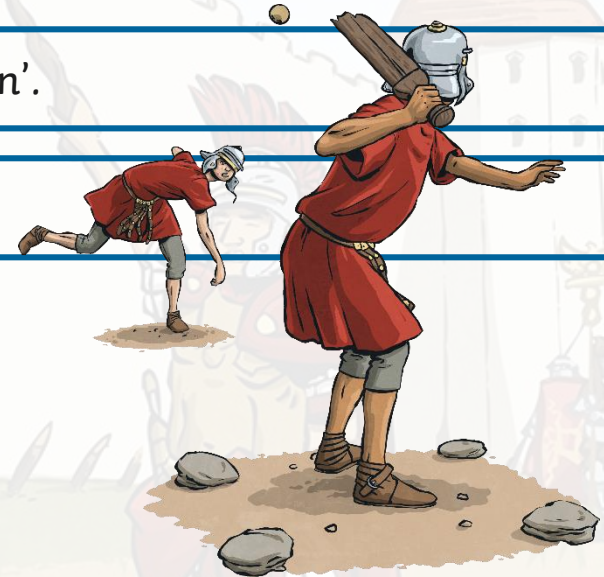
- 1 How does Charlie feel?
- 2 What has happened to Tilda?
- 3 Which game does Charlie introduce the soldiers to?



Chapter 15: Escape Is a Smelly Business

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What seemed to be following Charlie around?
- 2 Why was Charlie being punished?
- 3 What imagery is created by the phrase, 'A mocking smile danced across his lips'?
- 4 In your own words, describe the game of 'trigon'.
- 5 How did Charlie break free?



Chapter 16: Top Price for Tilda

To think about while reading:

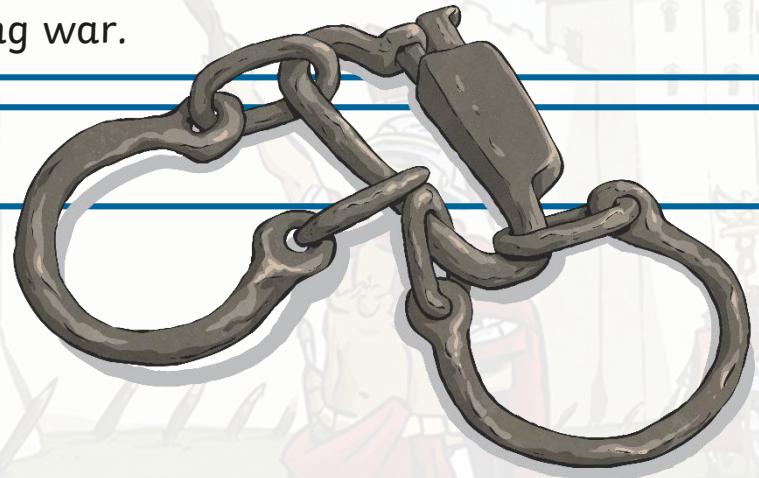
- 1 Why was Tilda taken to the market?
- 2 What money do the Romans use?
- 3 Was Tilda treated fairly?



Chapter 16: Top Price for Tilda

After reading the chapter:

- 1 How was Tilda imprisoned?
- 2 Why was Tilda attracting a lot of attention?
- 3 Which words would you use to describe Tilda's emotions during this chapter?
- 4 In your own words, describe the bidding war.
- 5 How did Charlie save the day?



Chapter 17: The Sweet Sound of Sirens

To think about while reading:

- 1 Why did things happen so fast once the bidding war was over?
- 2 Is the ring valuable?
- 3 How does the situation get resolved?



Chapter 17: The Sweet Sound of Sirens

After reading the chapter:

- 1 What do you think of Charlie's attitude?
- 2 How do you think the auctioneer is feeling when he learns that Charlie does not have the correct money?
- 3 Why were the Romans mesmerised by the ring?
- 4 Do the children want to time travel again?
- 5 Would you recommend this story to a friend? Why?





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