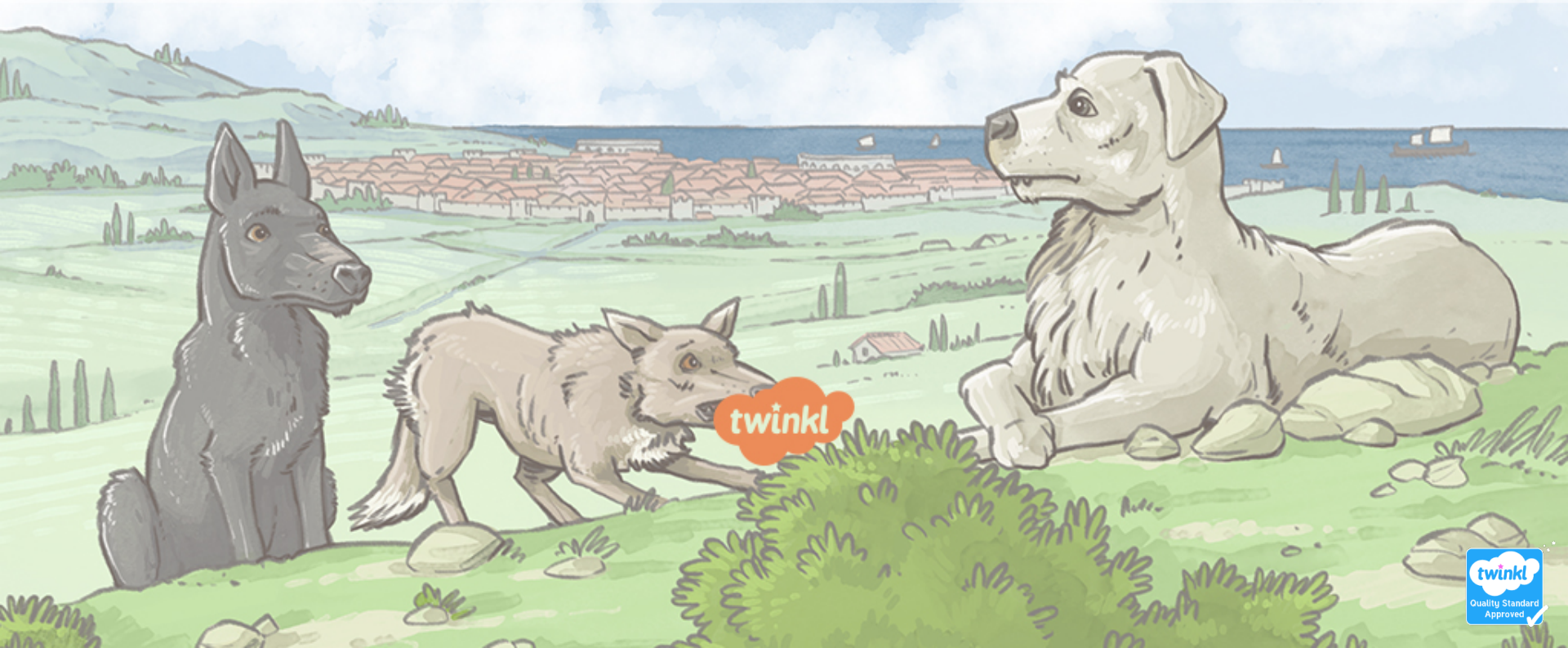


The Pack of Pompeii

Reading Questions & Story Discussion Prompts



During and After Reading Each Chapter



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

One



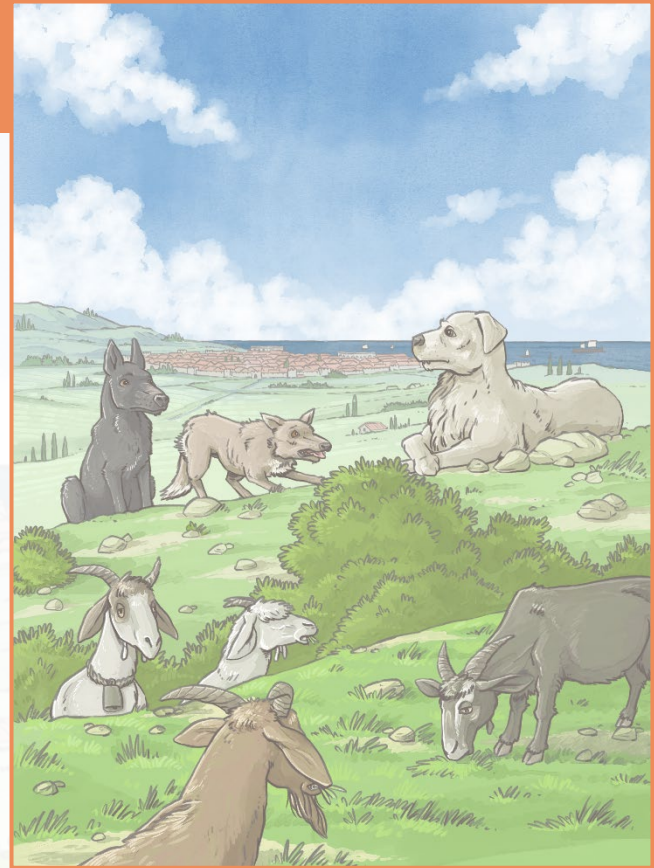
To think about while reading:

1. What are the names of the three main characters?
2. Which animals are said to be acting strangely?
3. What is meant by 'two-legs'?

One

After reading the chapter:

1. Why does Claudia limp?
2. What is indicated by Claudia's ears being flattened against her head?
3. Why did the dogs agree to go into the town?
4. What is suggested by the actions of the horses at the end of the chapter?
5. What do you predict will happen next?



Two



To think about while reading:

1. Why did the dogs stare at the ground?
2. What types of objects fall to the ground?
3. What does Livia decide at the end of the chapter?

Two

After reading the chapter:

1. Define 'scampers'.
2. In the third paragraph, what is suggested by the words 'violent urgency'?
3. Name two things that the two-legs are doing in the town.
4. Can you give an example of personification in the fourth paragraph?
5. What do we learn about Livia's character in this chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.



Three

To think about while reading:

1. What does Alba see to make her growl and whimper?
2. What does Alba say about dogs that are kept as pets?
3. What do Livia and the other dogs disagree about?



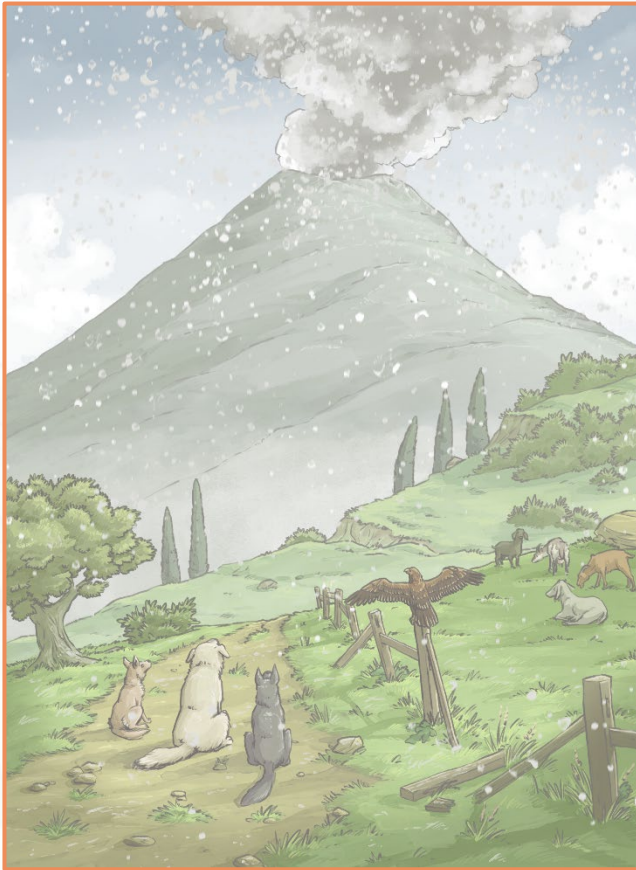
Three

After reading the chapter:

1. Why does Alba drop the meat at Livia's paws?
2. Why does Livia back away from the girl?
3. What is Alba saved from?
4. Which new dog is mentioned in this chapter?
5. What is Alba's opinion of this new dog? Explain how you know.



Four



To think about while reading:

1. What begins to fall from the sky?
2. What type of animal is Cato?
3. What decision does Livia make and why?

Four

After reading the chapter:

1. Why do you think the ground feels warm under the dogs' paws?
2. What does Cato mean by 'stone nests'?
3. What does Cato advise?
4. *I growl. She steps back and lowers her head.*
Do you think that Livia was being fair to Claudia at this point in the story?
5. What do you predict will happen next in the story?
Explain your answer fully.



Five



To think about while reading:

1. What causes the 'BOOM'?
2. What does Livia find when she reaches the home of the shepherd?
3. What new danger awaits them in addition to the falling ash?

Five

After reading the chapter:

1. *The mountain's fury tears great claw marks across the earth and bundles me off my feet, pulling down walls and toppling olive trees.*

Give an example of personification from the sentence above.

2. What are the 'great claw marks' described in the sentence above?

3. How do you think the girl feels when Livia reaches her?

4. Define 'betrayed'.

5. What does the writer mean by '*the Gentle Mountain has betrayed us all*'?



Six

To think about while reading:



1. Where does Livia lead the girl?
2. How does Livia feel toward the girl?
3. What do we learn about Delta's character?

Six

After reading the chapter:

1. Find and copy a word in the second paragraph which means to 'gently push'.
2. Define 'melee'.
3. Why do you think that the streets are less crowded?
4. How do you think Livia felt when she saw Claudia and Alba?
5. Suggest why the author ended the chapter with 'CRASH'.



Seven



To think about while reading:

1. Why do you think that the dogs help Delta?
2. How does Delta keep her human family moving along?
3. When Livia wakes, what is wrong?

Six

After reading the chapter:

1. What other animals are being used to help people flee?
2. What impression do you get from the phrase 'never-ending torrent'?
3. Why did Delta leave the cart?
4. How do you think Livia feels about Delta's decision? Explain your answer.
5. Summarise this chapter's events in twenty words or fewer.



Eight



To think about while reading:

1. What problems are faced by the carts as they travel?
2. How do the dogs feel at this point in the story?
3. What does Cato say has happened to the town?

Eight

After reading the chapter:

1. What did the dogs' cart look like once it had made it to safety?
2. Why does the writer describe the falling ash as 'waves of grey flakes'?
3. Why do you think Alba suggests the dogs were lucky?
4. How does Livia feel when she sees the young 'two-leg'?
5. What do you think Livia feels she has learned in the final sentence?



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