

BUILDING A LATIN CLASS **BOOK SHARE PROGRAM**

Click on the book titles or images starting on page 6 to buy from Amazon.com

Recommended Latin Vocabulary-Controlled Chapter Books begin on page 6.

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CAN BEGINNING LATIN STUDENTS READ?

Yes! With the right preparation and materials, even absolute beginning students can begin to read on their own in Latin.. Teaching lessons with high frequency verbs via traditional Total Physical Response is one way to do it. Here is a sample lesson for upper elementary and middle school students that have had no Latin before. Once students have several of the most useful verbs, they need to have access to the right reading materials. Find Latin books that are **interesting** and **comprehensible** (see page 6). These books are provided for independent [Guided Self-Selected Reading](#) by students, which helps with language acquisition like nothing else.

Middle School Students are expected to read at least 60 minutes per week.

High School Students are expected to read at least 90 minutes per week.

This may be 2,000 to 10,000 or more words per week, depending on the students' age and reading speed.

**Lingua nulla discitur e
grammatica sed ex
autoribus idoneis.**

*"Language is not learned from
grammar, but from
suitable authors."*

—Quintilian (AD 35-100)

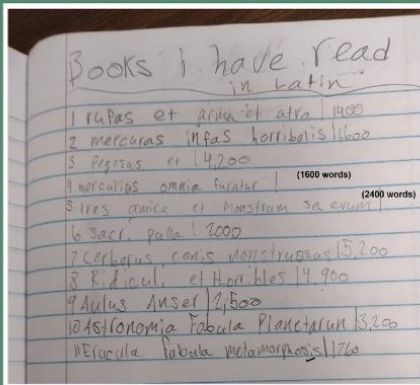
His writings influenced Augustine, Jerome, Martin Luther, Erasmus, John Stuart Mill, and even Johann Sebastian Bach.



BryceHedstrom.com **BH**

Can beginning students participate in free voluntary reading?

Renata, a fifth grader, read all of these books in Latin in the first 4 months on her own outside of class. That adds up to 37,000 words, not to mention the stories and interviews in class and reading portions of Rufus et Arma Ara together with the class.



BryceHedstrom.com **BH**

The objective is for each student to read several hundred thousand words in comprehensible and interesting Latin every school year.

Reading that many words is doable. If students read for 30 minutes a day in L1 (their native language), [they will read 2 million words per year](#). Most students will read more slowly in Latin, but they will still be able to read 100,000 to 500,000 words in a school year.

Students may check out more than one book at a time.

Sharing between siblings is encouraged.

Students may re-read books. You always pick up more when you read a book again.

↓ A Latin Classroom Library. ↓



HOW TO CHOOSE A BOOK

Here is how to choose a book that suits you: Find something that is **both comprehensible** and **interesting** to you. You need to be able to understand most of it, and there should be something about it that appeals to you and holds your attention.

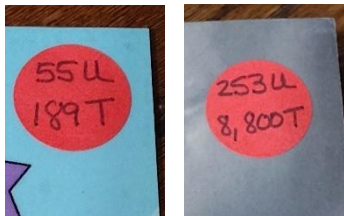
Each of the books in our Latin Book Share have been reinforced with clear tape to protect them. They will last for years if they are treated respectfully and gently. Please be careful with the books—do not write in them and do not eat or drink while you are reading them.

UNIQUE WORD COUNT

The **Unique Word Count** is a valuable tool to help students find books they can understand. You are looking for books with a *Unique Word Count* that are in your comprehension range—those that you can understand without too much struggle. The *Unique Word Count* is the number of different words in the book, minus cognates (words that are similar to English), proper nouns (like names of characters and places in the story), and glossed words on pages of the book.

You are trying to pick a book at the “Goldilocks Level”: one that is not too easy and not too hard for you. Books that are too easy or books that are too hard provide little opportunity for growth in the language. This is an individualized choice. Some students will be able to tolerate more ambiguity, more unknown words. The goal of the classroom library and Book Share program is to provide books that are suitable for every student. Students will need to experiment to figure out what works for them. The key is to find books that you like, even if others consider them junk reading.

TOTAL WORD COUNT



At the same time, notice the **Total Word Count**. There is a **red sticker** on the upper right front cover of each book that has the *Unique Word Count* (U) and the *Total Word Count* (T).

The total number of comprehensible Latin words that students read is a big factor that increases acquisition. The goal is for students to read thousands of words in Latin and to keep track of how many words they have read. I encourage students to keep a log of what titles and how many words they have read.

PARENTS: Encourage your children to check out books every week and check up on what they are reading often. Ask them to explain what they are reading and occasionally ask them to read aloud to you in Latin.

BH Bryce Hedstrom

HOW TO CHOOSE A BOOK

Find something **INTERESTING** and **COMPREHENSIBLE** for you to read. Keep trying different materials until you find something that works for you. You are looking for...

something that you like & can understand; material that keeps your attention & that you can read without struggle.

PICK SOMETHING THAT IS:
ENGAGING & UNDERSTANDABLE to you
ENJOYABLE & RELATIVELY EASY for you
PALATABLE & ACCESSIBLE to you

It does not have to be utterly fascinating, and you do not have to understand every single word.

It should just hold your interest for a while, and it should be something that you can mostly understand.


If you don't like it, or if it doesn't make sense to you, choose something else to read next time.

Reading the same book again may be a good option too.

Talk with your teacher for help and advice.

Why Self Selected Reading Matters:

Students have different interests, different abilities, and different goals. They need to be reading different materials.



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Reading the same book more than once can be helpful for deep learning. You will pick up more words the second and third time through because you will know where the story is heading, and you will be able to focus on the nuances of word meaning and grammar better.

Oddly enough, reading very easy books is helpful. These are books that students can read without looking up unknown words. Why? Because there is plenty of acquisition that is happening even with easy books. Even with books that are not classics—books that are “junk.” With this kind of reading, students are reading for meaning rather than to decode.

This [Focused Book Report](#) reinforces the idea of reading easy books.

The more Latin you read, the more Latin you will acquire.

SLA research by [Paul Nation](#) and others indicates that students will effortlessly pick up new words as they read. They just need to read materials that are comprehensible and interesting to them.

Students can begin to read the books in our classroom library because the texts are sheltered. They will keep on reading because the books are interesting to them.

This sheltering gives readers exposure to core vocabulary—much more so than in textbooks (let alone authentic texts), which often have too many unknown words and do not repeat the high-frequency words enough for beginners to really get them.

Sheltered reading is supported by Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Research. Simplified texts help language learners: ([Long, 2020, Optimal input for language learning...](#)).

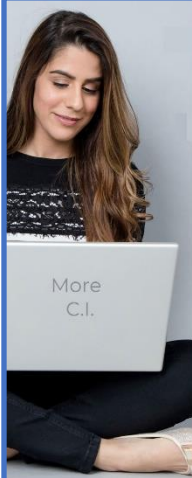
Vocabulary-controlled novellas, like the ones we provide in our Book Share, provide repetitions of high-frequency vocabulary that novice learners need. They will begin to read for meaning, which is pleasurable, rather than the more laborious reading to decode.

WHY PAPER BOOKS?

A classroom library should be filled with paper books. This is purposeful. Research indicates that:

- People read faster with paper books versus digital books.
- They understand twice as much with paper books.
- And they remember twice as much with paper books.

If no materials are available, of course, eBooks are much better than nothing, but we are focusing on paper books so that students will acquire more language.



“People who use e-readers had a much tougher time remembering story details compared with folks who read a printed version. Things like holding the book, turning the pages, and touching the paper may contribute to better mental reconstruction of the book’s plot.”

—David Bucci, PhD, professor of psychological and brain sciences, Dartmouth College.

BryceHedstrom.com BH


Get Paper Books




With paper books readers:
Read faster
Understand more
Remember more




Get Paper Books
For Better Comprehension



Readers understand more with paper books.
Readers understand significantly less with eBooks.
Comprehension of eBooks is about half (1/2) of that with paper books.
Better read that again.




Get Paper Books



To help students remember what they've read

"People who use e-readers had a much tougher time remembering story details compared with folks who read a printed version. Things like holding the book, turning the pages, and touching the paper may contribute to better mental reconstruction of the book's plot."

—David Bucci, PhD, professor of psychological and brain sciences, Dartmouth College.



Get Paper Books




If you want students to read faster,

People read about 25% slower on screens than they do on paper.

This is probably due to the many distractions associated with electronics.



GET PAPER BOOKS
So others can see what you're reading.



GET PAPER BOOKS



So that students can trade them with one another



READING SEVERAL BOOKS BY ONE AUTHOR

Students tend to progress faster and more thoroughly in their reading when they read many books by one author. As they become familiar with the word choice and the storytelling style of the author, students will begin to understand more and read faster.

There are multiple books by several authors in our Latin classroom library. When you find an author you like, stick with that author for a few more books.

VOCABULARY-CONTROLLED CHAPTER BOOKS

- Nota Bene:**
- The **Recommended** and **Highly Recommended** ratings below come from student comments and reactions as well as evaluations by the teacher. If you are building a Latin classroom library, the **Recommended** and **Highly Recommended** books are a good place to begin.
 - The reading levels below are for **Independent Reading**—students reading alone. Students will be able to read at a higher level when reading together with classmates and with the help of a teacher guiding the process (AKA **Whole Class Reading**).
 - The reading levels are guidelines and approximations. Authors have different ways of calculating the unique word counts. The word choice of an author can also influence readability. Some students will be able to read books that are above their assumed reading level.
 - Reading levels are based on observations of students and conversations with Latin teachers. I wouldn't prevent students from trying to read books that are assumed to be above their level, nor would I discourage students from reading books that are "too easy."

↓ **20 or Fewer Unique Words** ↓

• **Absolute Beginner / First Weeks of Level 1A** •

Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com.

Pisō et Syra et pōtiōnēs mysticae, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella about a young poet with writer's block and insomnia. He seeks mystical remedies. It was purposefully written with almost all cognates.

There are more stories about Syra in **Syra sōla** and **Syra et Animālia** (below), also by Lance Piantaggini.

170 unique words - 163 cognates =

- **7 effective unique words**
- **2,500 total words**

*Nota Bene: Some students may perceive the unique word count as **27 or more** because not all cognates or forms of verbs will be immediately recognizable to them.*

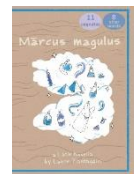


Mārcus magulus, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella about a Roman boy that moves to Egypt with his family, wants to become a mage (magician/wizard). He has dealings with the Sphinx.

19 unique words - 11 cognates =

- **8 effective unique words**
- **900 total words**



Quīntus et īnsula horrifica, by Lance Piantaggini

A Latin novella set in ancient Rome about a boy that fears the dark but wants to appear brave in front of his parents. He sees what he thinks are ghosts... or are they?

Nota Bene: Contains toilet humor: all three main characters poop in fear often. Also, Scooby-Do type ghosts.

- 20 unique words
- 750 total words



Rūfus lutulentus, by Lance Piantaggini

A Latin novella set in ancient Rome about a boy going through a phase where he likes to play in the mud. He eventually learns that the Romans like to keep clean with daily baths. Has many references to famous places in ancient Rome. This story is extended in **Rūfus et Lūcia, liberi lutulenti** (below). The main character, Rūfus, also appears in **Rūfus et arma ātra**, and **Rūfus et gladiātōres** (below.)

- 20 unique words
- 1,200 total words

Recommended (because it is so simple, like 2nd week of class simple)



↑ 20 or Fewer Unique Words ↑

↓ More than 20 Unique Words ↓

• Early Beginner / Level 1A •

(Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Syra sōla, by Lance Piantaggini

An independent Roman girl named Syra likes being alone. She travels from Rome to the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in search of solitude. There are more stories about Syra in **Pisō et Syra et pōtiōnēs mysticae** (above) and **Syra et Animālia** (below).

- 29 unique words
- 1,400 total words

Recommended



Mārcus et scytala Caesaris, by Lance Piantaggini

A boy comes across a decoding device that belonged to Julius Caesar. Egyptian hieroglyphs appear leading him on a mystery.

50 unique words - 20 cognates =

- 30 effective unique words
- 1,400 total words

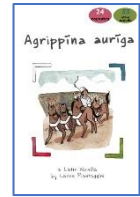


Agrippina auriga, by Lance Piantaggini

A girl in ancient Roman Spain wants to race chariots. When a local favorite charioteer has trouble, she gets her chance. This is the story of Agrippina, the mother of Piso and Rufus, which is told in the book **Agrippina mater fortis**. (below)
55 unique words - 24 cognates =

- **33** effective unique words
- **1,800** total words

Recommended

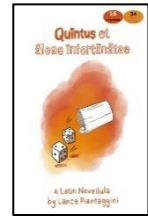


Quintus et alea, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella set in ancient Rome about a boy who likes to play games of chance: gambling with dice. The problem is he never wins! He bets more than he can afford to lose. Will he come out on top, or lose it all?

Pairs nicely with the famous Latin motto by Julius Caesar when he crossed the Rubicon: "**Alea iacta est**" (The die is cast).

- **34** effective unique words
- **840** total words



Rufus et arma atra, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella set in ancient Rome about a boy obsessed with gladiators. Uses high-frequency verbs and adjectives. Mentions several noteworthy places in ancient Rome. Related stories are found in **Rufus et gladiatores** (below).

This book was used successfully with first semester Latin 1A middle school students. It has what middle schoolers like: action, falling down, throwing, mud, and a child with apparent complete freedom to roam around Rome.

- **40** unique words
- **1,400** total words

Highly Recommended



Rufus et gladiatores, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella set in ancient Rome with 28 more short stories about Rufus, the boy obsessed with gladiators. Good follow-up to **Rufus et arma atra**. (above)

- **49** unique words
- **1,800** total words



Ego, Polyphemus, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella based on the works of Homer (Greek), Ovid (Roman), and Virgil (Roman). Shows the many sides of the cyclops Polyphemus, portraying him as a monster that is cruel and ridiculous, but also pitiable and even sympathetic.
155 unique words - 80 cognates =

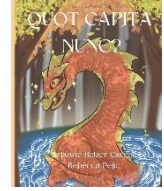
- **50** effective unique words
- **2,440** total words.

Highly Recommended



Quot Capita Nunc?, by Arianne Belzer-Carroll

(How Many Heads Now?) The Hydra lives by herself and is very happy... until three humans come along and decide she is bothering them. What they don't know is that decapitating her isn't going to get them very far. Count along with the "heroes" as we find out once and for all: how many heads does the Hydra have NOW?



With just fifty individual words and a full index in the back, plus full-page color illustrations by Remy Becks, an *index numerorum* and some fun counting facts at the end, this book is suitable for Latin I students. Almost all of its vocabulary is high frequency. It includes structures like the future tense and datives of possession as well as idiomatic language. It is structured as a children's book for novice students.

- **50 unique words**
- **The author provides no total word count**

Trēs amīcī et mōnstrum saevum, by Lance Piantaggini

Three friends hunt for the mother of one of them in a dark forest.

- **59 effective unique words** (87 words – 28 cognates)
- **2,400 total words.**



↑ **Fewer than 60 Unique Words** ↑

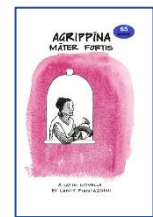
↓ **More than 60 Unique Words** ↓

• **Beginner / Level 1B** •

Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com.

Agrippina māter fortis, by Lance Piantaggini

Latin novella about the mother of **Pisō & Rūfus** who secretly likes to fight like a gladiator. She goes in search of her missing husband. Her son Rufus inexplicably walks around nude a lot which generated interesting discussions in Latin. Some students thought he must be very young. Others argued it is understandable because gladiators trained in the nude and Rūfus wants to be a gladiator. One slightly troubling element: Agrippina steals from her best friend with no apparent qualms or consequences.



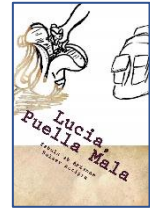
This book was used successfully with Latin 1A middle school students in the second semester as a **whole class reading book**. Students that transferred in during the semester needed help with vocabulary, so [lists](#) were developed for them to use with [flashcards](#). This got them caught up.

- **65 unique words**
- **2,800 total words**

Recommended

Lucia, Puella Mala, by Arianne Belzer

Latin novel about a little girl that gets into trouble. This is a cross-over to the “Pisoverse” novels. The character Lucia also shows up in the **Pīsō & Rūfus** novellas by Lance Piantaginni. Illustrated with low quality black and white drawings.



NOTE: The author uses some words that are not as common as those in other early Latin novellas:

dēlectat rather than the more common **placet**;

cogitat rather than **putat**;

gaudet rather than **laetus est** and

inquit rather than **dicit**.

Other words you’ll see a lot in this book that are necessary to tell the story:

ubique (everywhere), **cubiculum** (bedroom), **consilium capit** (comes up with a plan),

hortō (garden), **rānae** (frogs), and **luto** (mud).

- **68** unique words
- **2,400** total words

Rūfus et Lūcia, liberi lutulentī, by Lance Piantaginni

This is a continuation and expansion of **Rūfus lutulentus**, (above) about Rūfus and his friend Lūcia getting muddy. Lūcia also appears in **Lūcia, Puella Mala**, by Arianne Belzer (above).

- **70** unique words
- **1,600** total words

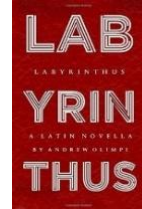


Labyrinthus, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella about Ariadne, the daughter of king Minos of Crete. This is the story of the Minotaur told from her perspective. Adapted from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* and *Carmen 64* by Catullus.

Unique word count: 120 – 45 cognates =

- **75** effective unique words
- **3,070** total words



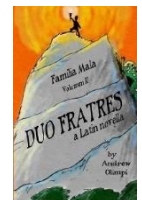
Familia Mala #2: Duo Fratres, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella which reimagines one of literature’s most famous dysfunctional families: the titan brothers Prometheus and Epimetheus. Easier reading, but this is the sequel to **Familia Mala #1: Saturnus et Iuppiter**. This book is the prequel to **Familia Mala #3: Pandora** (See both below).

Unique word count: 120 – 45 cognates =

- **75** effective unique words
- **2,720** total words

Recommended

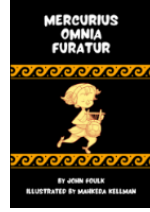


Mercurius omnia furatur, by John Foulk

Latin novella for beginning readers. Loosely based on Homer's Hymn to the Greek god Hermes (Mercury). About the Roman god Mercury as an energetic and rambunctious super-human baby. This is a good one to read before **Mercurius Ifans Horribilis** (see below), which tells the same story with more details and with slightly higher vocabulary. Check out both of them at once so you can compare the two stories.

- **79** unique words
- **1,600** total words

Recommended

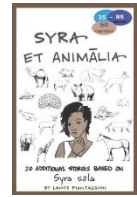


Syra et Animālia, by Lance Piantaggini

In this collection of 20 short stories that reinforce the vocabulary in *Syra sōla*, Syra becomes a radical vegetarian activist, stealing animals and setting them free in the forest. The book is filled with comprehensible input in Latin about animals, but Syra's ethical choices are inadequate. May be good for discussion about what is right and for learning some animal names. The simpler story about Syra is found in **Syra sōla** (above).

A simpler book about animals is **Animals in Rome**, a Latin vocabulary coloring book, by TITVS CLASSICS (see below). You might want to look at that one first.

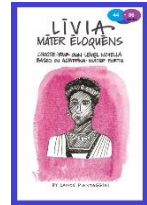
- **85** unique words (depending on the short story)
- **2,000** total words



Līvia, māter ēloquēns, by Lance Piantaggini

A choose-your-own level Latin novella based on Līvia, the friend of Agrippina from **Agrippīna māter fortis**. (above)

- **86** unique words
- **1,850 – 3,250** total words



Sacrī Pullī, A Tale of War and Chickens, by Emma Vanderpool

Latin novella about augury: how birds were used by Romans to predict the future. The story is told from the viewpoint of a chicken, a chicken keeper, and a Roman general. Lots of repetition. The set of words for this novel is unique.

Readers will pick up the words **pullus** (chicken), **hara** (chicken coop), **bellum** (war), and **frumentum** (grain). Oddly, the verb **neccāre** (to kill) is used rather than **interficere** (to kill), which is used more often in Latin language learner literature.

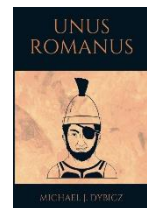
- **90** unique words
- **2,000** total words.



Unus romanus, by Michael Dybicz

The Romans have driven out their evil king, Tarquinius, but he's back with his friend, King Lars Porsenna and an army. The upstart Romans know they can't win if it comes to a fair fight. Can they save their tiny young city? Can just one man make a difference? Horatius is going to find out... Tells the same story as the book **Lars Romam odit!** by Andrew Olimpi (See below). No illustrations. Good glossary.

- **90** unique words
- **≈ 2,000** total words

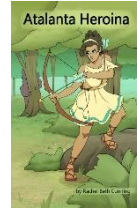


Atalanta heroína, by Rachel Beth Cunning

Atalanta faces rejection from the moment of her birth. She manages, however, to win the favor of the goddess Diana, and she travels the world with Jason and the Argonauts, winning prizes and fighting alongside renowned heroes, every bit their equal. She is a heroine. What happens, then, when her father hears all the tales of her heroic deeds and decides that it's time to reclaim his lost daughter?

- 93 unique words
- 2,350 total words

Recommended

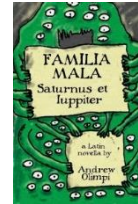


Familia Mala #1: Saturnus et Iuppiter, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella which reimagines one of literature's most famous dysfunctional families: the titans and gods of Roman mythology. See also **Familia Mala #2: Duo Fratres** (see above), and **Familia Mala #3: Pandora** (see below).

- 95 unique words
- 2,350 total words

Recommended



↑ 100 or Fewer unique words ↑

↓ More than 100 unique words ↓

• **Advanced Beginner / Level 2A** •

Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com.

Polypus Fur, by Rachel Beth Cunning

Fanciful story about an octopus that raids a food storehouse by climbing through the sewer system. The guard of the storehouse, Apīcius, who wants to be a chef, is blamed for the thefts. Apīcius was the name of a famous ancient Roman chef, so his name in this story is no accident. Octopi can actually do some of the actions described in this novel. 166 words – proper nouns, glossed words, and cognates =

- 103 effective unique words
- 6,400 total words

Recommended



Pegasus et Bellerophon, by Rachel Beth Cunning

Latin novella based on how Bellerophon achieves his aims with the help of the mythical flying horse, Pegasus. Told from the perspective of Pegasus. Focuses on the theme of friendship.

139 unique words – cognates =

- 105 effective unique words
- 4,200 total words

Recommended



Cerberus Canis Monstruosus, by Rachel Beth Cunning

Fanciful story about Cerberus, the mythical three-headed dog that guards the underworld when he was a puppy. Cerberus also appears in the novel **Pluto fabula amoris** (See below).

159 unique words – proper nouns, glossed words, and cognates =

- **113** effective unique words
- **5,200** total words

Recommended



Lars Romam odit! by Andrew Olimpi

Lars hates Rome! Historical fiction inspired by Livy, Book II, about Lars Porsenna and the Etruscans dealing with those crafty up-and-coming, and oh-so-lucky, Romans, who always found a way to win. It takes place during an important time in Roman history, marking the end of the Roman kings and the beginning of the Roman Republic.

This book tells the same story as **Unus romanus**, by Michael Dybicz (See above).

The unique word count of this novella is listed as slightly higher, but it is easier to read due to the word choice, repetitions and experience by the author. The novella **Cloelia puella Rōmāna**, by Ellie Arnold also takes place during this time period.

160 words - 45 cognates =

- **115** effective unique words
- **3,800** total words

Highly Recommended

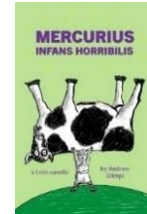


Mercurius infans horribilis, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella for advanced beginning to low intermediate readers. Loosely based on Homer's Hymn to Hermes (Mercury). Similar story to the book **Mercurius omnia furatur** (See above) but written at a higher level.

- **115** unique words (excluding cognates and words glossed in the text)
- **2,960** total words

Recommended



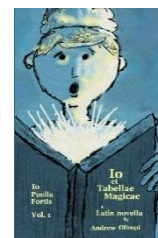
Io et tabellae magicae, by Andrew Olimpi

Io is tired of her life in a small town in ancient Greece. One day, Io finds a wax tablet and stylus in a mysterious clearing in the woods: Hello, Io" is written on the tablet. She decides to solve this mystery and entangles her sister and friend in a thrilling adventure. This Latin novella uses past, present, and future tenses.

Unique word count: 160 - 45 cognates =

- **115** effective unique words
- **3,800** total words

Caution: *Implied that a vengeful goddess kills a girl.*



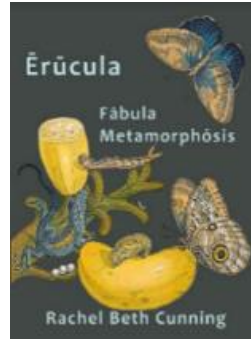
Erūcula, Fabula Metamorphōsis.

by Rachel Beth Cunning

This is high-interest content presented in Latin: a non-fiction book that will appeal to students that love nature. It is about the life cycle of butterflies and moths in the jungles of Surinam, South America—all in Latin! Extensive use of original drawings by 16th century Dutch biologist **María Sibylla Merian** helps with understanding. If students focus on the specialized vocabulary and drawings in the first few pages (perhaps with flashcards), this book will be understandable to beginner-level students that are interested in nature and insects. Fascinating stuff. 186 words minus cognates =

- **118** effective unique words
- **1,760** total words

Highly Recommended



Ad orcum, by Michael Dybicz

Sometimes the best day of your life becomes the worst. No matter what people say, poisonous snakes and wives just don't mix. But Orpheus, the greatest musician in the world, isn't the type to back down, even to death. He's taking his show on the road – all the way to **orcum**, the underworld – to get his beloved Eurydice back.

- **Orpheus** and **Eurydice** also appear in *Eurydice: fabula amoris*, by Rachel Ash and Miriam Patrick (below), which is written at a slightly higher level. Check out both books to read and compare the stories.



Other characters from Roman mythology in this novella:

Pluto and **Prosperina**, are also in *Pluto fabula amoris*, by Rachel Ash and Miriam Patrick (below).

Cerberus appears in *Cerberus Canis Monstruosus*, by Rachel Beth Cunning (above)

Sisyphus appears in *Sisyphus, rex improbus*, by Peter Sipes (below)

Hymenaeus

Charōn

Nāiadēs

Tantalus

Danaides

Some specialized vocabulary in this book:

audire to hear, to listen to
canēbat was singing / playing
canēns singing, playing
canere to sing, to play
cithara on the harp

ducebat was leading
flēbat was crying
Flūmen Stygem the River Styx
manes spirit(s), ghost(s)
matrimōnī of marriage

momordit it bit
morsā having been bitten
orcō, orcum the underworld

- **120** effective unique words
- **≈ 2,000** total words

Filia regis et monstrum horribile, by Andrew Olimpi

An adaptation of the myth of Psyche and Cupid. There are some surprising connections to modern fairy tales. Princess Psyche has everything going for her: wealth, fame, beauty, admirers . . . until Venus, the goddess of love, becomes jealous and sends a terrible curse on her: Psyche is condemned to marry a horrible monster who lives in a mysterious palace on top of a mountain. The novella by Rachel Beth Cunning, *Cupīdō et Psȳchē* (below), is the same story written at a slightly higher level and would pair nicely after reading this story.

- **125** unique words
- **3,740** total words

Recommended



Unguentum, by Peter Sipes

Clodia, girlfriend of the poet Catullus, has just gotten a perfume made by Venus and Cupid. It's so amazing that Catullus wants to share it with a friend. This story includes three tiered versions of a famous poem by the Roman poet Catullus (Catullus 13).

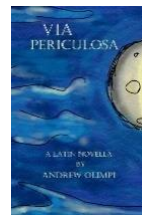
- **128** unique words
- **1,750** total words

Via periculosa, by Andrew Olimpi

Niceros is an escaped Greek slave in ancient Italy. He is avoiding capture and seeking his one true love, Melissa. However, a chance encounter at an inn sets in motion a harrowing chain of events that lead to murder, mayhem, mystery, and a bit of magic. Loosely adapted from the Roman author Petronius, *Via Periculosa* ("The Dangerous Road") is an exciting and surprising supernatural thriller suitable for Latin readers in the first year of study and beyond.

- **130** unique words
- **3,430** total words

Recommended

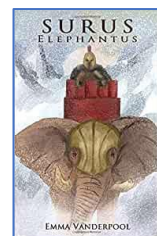


Surus elephantus, by Emma Vanderpool

Latin novella based on the Carthaginian general Hannibal's invasion of Rome over the Alps with elephants. Told from the point of view of one of his elephants.

- **130** unique word count
- **3,000** total words

Recommended



Ubi Mors Habitat, by Andrew Olimpi

This Latin novella is set in ancient Rome, but it is based on a story from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. This is a different kind of novel. There is no one to admire here. None of the characters are heroes. It is a dark story with dark characters whose lives do not turn out well due to deception, mistrust, and greed. It's a fascinating tale and different from the light-hearted stories in most vocabulary-controlled novellas.



My high school students (Level 1B) enthusiastically voted to read this book as a class. Several of them had previously read it on their own and they were anxious to discuss it.

This story is told with slightly higher language in a graphic novel format in the illustrated **Tres Fabulae Horrificae**, by Jocelyn Demuth (below). That would be a good follow-up.

- **130 effective unique words**
- **2,600 total words**

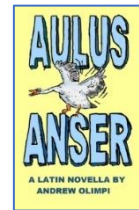
Highly recommended for mature students

Aulus answer by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella about the antics of a silly goose. Based on historical events from a brief passage by the Roman poet Catullus.

177 unique words - 45 cognates =

- **132 effective unique words**
- **≈ 2,500 total words** *Mild toilet humor.*



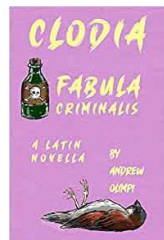
Clodia: Fabula criminalis, by Andrew Olimpi

Love, lies, betrayal, extortion... just another day in the life of Clodia, a wealthy Roman woman, who will do anything to get what she wants. Latin novella based on historical events in the poetry of Catullus.

Unique word count: 177 minus 45 cognates =

- **132 effective unique words**
- **3,550 total words**

Recommended—but not for younger students.



Astronōmia: Fābula Planetārum, by Rachel Beth Cunning

Explanations in Latin about the planets and short stories about the Roman gods after whom they are named. If students are familiar with our solar system and know a bit about Roman mythology this book may be comprehensible to them despite the word count. Fascinating stuff.

Word count: 308 minus proper nouns, glossed words, and cognates =

- **133 effective unique words**
- **3,200 total words**

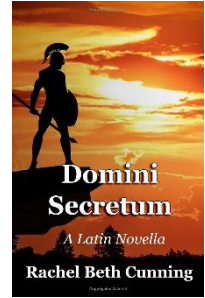
Highly Recommended



Domini Secretum, by Rachel Beth Cuning

Aquilinus is a teenager who lives in a beautiful house in Rome. He's also a slave in that house whose life is about to be upended and his family torn apart.

Aquilinus' father Ferox, once a proud Gallic chieftain who was captured and enslaved during the Gallic War, loses his temper, and berates their master Valens during Saturnalia. Worse, Ferox reveals that he knows something terrible about Valens, a secret that Valnes thought he had left safely behind in war.



This secret threatens to undermine Valen's [political ambitions, and his fiery, angry response has tragic repercussions for Aquilinus and his mother Euphemia. Aquilinus becomes consumed by his need to understand what happened to his father and to know his master's terrible secret.

- **136** effective unique words
- **8,000** total words

↑ Fewer than 140 unique words ↑

↓ More than 140 unique words ↓

• **Advanced Beginner + / Level 2B** •

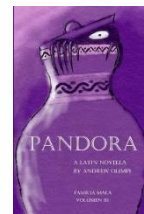
Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com.

Familia Mala #3: Pandora, by Andrew Olimpi

Latin novella which centers around the myth of Pandora, with elements of other myths included. 3rd in the series, following **Familia Mala #1** and **Familia Mala #2** (Both above)

- **140** unique words
- **4,200** total words

Recommended



Griseus planēta, by Cécile Lainé, Alkinz, and Laura Shaw.

A science fiction graphic novel about a planet dying from a lack of water. Anime-style drawings. Quality color graphics. Themes: courage, family devotion, connections between old and young. There are questions for discussion at the end. Science fiction and graphic novel fans will like this story.



The glossary is easy to read, but woefully inadequate. There are at least 40 words in the story that are *not glossed in the text and do not appear in the glossary* (!?). Some are basic, but I'm thinking beginners might need help with many of these:

abhinc ago
annōs years
adest is here
adsumus we are here
caeruleus blue
cārissima dearest

cisium cart (motorcycle)
clāmōrem a cry
cōgitās you know
cognoscere to know
decem ten
dīcere to say

domum home
esne are
fac make
fuisse has been
griseus gray
heu alas

heus *hey*
inimicus *the enemy*
ita vērō *yes*
mātrēm *mother*
mātre *mother*
maximī mōmentī
of great importance
mē *me*

minime *no*
mōmentis *moments*
nimis *too, too much*
nocte *night*
nostrum *our*
nulla *no*
oculōs *eyes*
pulcher *beautiful*

quinque *five*
sententiā *opinion*
tecum *with you*
tuā *your*
tuōs *your*
venio *I'm coming*
viridis *green*

- **140** unique words
- **500** total words

Lucia Heros, by Arienne Belzer

Lucia's family think she's trouble. She wants to be a hero. She knows a lot about the heroes Jason and Odysseus, but try as she might, she just cannot seem to be them. Perhaps it's time for her to find her own way. With the help of her neighbors, Rufus and Agrippina, Lucia is about to learn a lot about herself. Lucia also appears in **Rufus et Lucia, liberi lutulenti**, by Lance Piantaggini (above), and **Lucia, Puella Mala**, by Arianne Belzer (above).

- **143** unique words
- **7,960** total words



Pluto: fabula amoris, by Rachel Ash and Miriam Patrick

One, a lonely underworld god; one a light-hearted young goddess. Their paths seemed unlikely to cross, but after glimpsing her beauty, Pluto takes an irreversible action. How will Proserpina handle her new situation? Can she love a god that no one else can? One gray pencil drawing per chapter.

- **148** unique words
- **1,070** total words



Eurydice: fabula amoris, by Rachel Ash and Miriam Patrick

A girl just starting her journey, Eurydice, finds herself thrust into a dark world from which she may never return. Can her true love face death itself and defy fate? Eurydice also appears in **Ad Orcum**, a slightly easier book by Michael Dybicz (above). Check out both to read and compare the stories.

- **148** unique words
- **1,070** total words



Confessio Patricii, by Michael Dybicz

This is a story based on St. Patrick's *Confession*, written in the fifth century by Saint Patrick himself. It retells his adventures as a young man. Extensive glossing on each page. No illustrations.

- **150** unique words
- **≈ 2,000** total words

Recommended

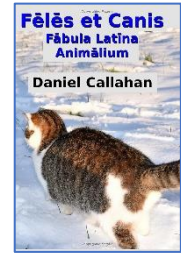


Fēlēs et Canis: Fābula Latīna Animālīum, by Daniel Callahan

Sonja the cat had the perfect life... she ate, she slept, she played with her mouse, and the stupid humans in her life treated her like a goddess. Then Max the dog arrived and turned her life upside down. He just wants to play and eat Sonja's cat food. How will Sonja survive?

This collection of 12 stories is written in Latin.

- 151 unique words
- 2,300 total words



Ridiculi et Horribiles Dei et Deae, by Rachel Beth Cunning

A collection of short stories about the antics of the gods and goddesses of Roman myth.

Unique word count: 237 – proper names, cognates, and glossed words =

- 154 effective unique words
- 4,900 total words

Highly Recommended



Tiberius et Gallisēna ultima, by Lance Piantaggini

Tiberius, the father of **Rufus & Piso**, is on the run. Fleeing from an attacking Germanic tribe, the Roman soldier finds himself separated from his army. Trying to escape Gaul (France), he gets help from an unexpected source—a magical druid priestess (a “Gaul” in his language, a “Celt” in hers). With her help, can Tiberius survive the punishing landscape of Gaul with a Germanic tribe in pursuit? Can he make his way back home to see Rufus, Piso, and his beloved wife Agrippina once again? This is a sequel to ***Agrippina mātē fortis***, also by Lance Piantaggini (See above). Agrippina as a young girl appears in ***Agrippina aurīga*** (See above).

- 155 unique word count
- 3,200 total words

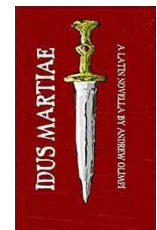


Idus Martias, by Andrew Olimpi

"Beware the Ides of March!" Latin novella based on Suetonius' and Plutarch's biographies about the death of Julius Caesar. It's 44 BC, and strange things are happening in Rome. A sacrificed bull is found to have no heart. Senators are secretly meeting in houses, speaking in whispers, and hiding in the shadows. A soothsayer is warning people in the streets to "beware the Ides of March." Mysterious boxes are beginning to turn up... containing daggers. Pompeia, her brother Cornelius, and her friend Roscus set out to investigate these strange happenings and soon find themselves entangled in a web of intrigue, deception... and murder.

- 160 unique words
- 3,800 total words

Caution: Has a brutal murder scene (Julius Caesar's).



Mēdēa et Peregrīnus Pulcherrimus, by Rachel Beth Cunning

This novel is based on Euripedes' *Medea*. Medea dreams that a handsome stranger will soon arrive at Colchis, her home. Her dream, however, lacks critical details. What does this stranger want and how far is he willing to go to achieve it?

- 160 effective unique words
- 7,500 total words



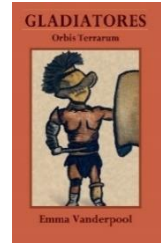
Gladiātōrēs Orbis Terrārum, by Emma Vanderpool

Intended as an introduction to gladiators, this is a collection of stories about the lives of gladiators, some famous, some lesser known.

The author provides no total word count or unique word count.

Caution: Chapter 2 has a mention of suicide.

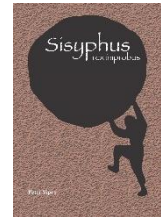
The author provides no total or unique word count.



Sisyphus, rex improbus, by Peter Sipes

The mythical story of how Sisyphus, the mortal king of Corinth, schemes to cheat death and the gods—and the eternal punishment he gets for it.

- 164 effective unique words
- 1,530 total words

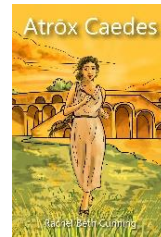


Atrōx Caedes, by Rachel Beth Cunning

A novelization of the events that occurred in the city of Pompeii in 59 A.D. during the gladiator riot and subsequent slaughter.

Word count: 239 – proper names, cognates, and glossed words =

- 170 effective unique words
- 6,900 total words



↑ Fewer than 180 unique words ↑

↓ More than 180 unique words ↓

• Low Intermediate / Level 2-3 •

(Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Catō Minor, Puer Fortis et Immōbilis, by John Bruce Fowler III

This is a story about the grandson of Catō the Elder who famously stood strong and kept saying the famous Latin motto, “Carthāgō dēlenda est!” (Carthage must be destroyed!) In a similar way, young Mārcus Catō learns how to stand up to bullies. Set in ancient Rome.

The glossary is hard to read. There is no introduction, no information about the author and no table of contents. Illustrated with occasional low quality black and white drawings. But... some students liked this book.



There are uncommon word choices for a beginning Latin novel. Throughout the text the author uses:

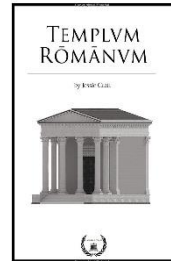
- **perplacet** instead of the more common verb **placet**.
- **prehendere** when the more common verb **sūmere** might do.
- **aiō** when **dīcō** would be more common and comprehensible.

Some words *not* in the glossary but in the text: *deōrum, avō, aliae, scūtaque, erō, erimus, eris, pila, pilam, eum, pulsat*, and others. Although some of these are forms of words in the glossary, beginning students may not make the connection.

- **190 unique words** (This may be too high—the actual word count seems lower to me.)
- **4,100 total words**

Templum Romanum, by Jesse Craft

More than just a Latin translation of Craft's English book *Roman Temple: A Story of its Origins and Construction*, **Templum Romanum** delves deeper into the story of a young Vitruvius who was a Roman architect during the Age of Augustus and who wanted nothing more than to build temples. Journey to places near and far alongside Vitruvius, who, with the support of his loving father, works to overcome obstacles and seeks to learn ancient temple architecture in the hopes of one day building his own Roman temple. This is a Latin II reader which focuses on Roman temple architecture. Although it was written for students in their 2nd year of Latin, students in years 2, 3, 4, and 5 will enjoy it as well. Additionally, it was designed so that it would open the door for teachers to go into greater detail through in-class discussions with their students about Roman religion, temple architecture, and parents supporting their children's education.

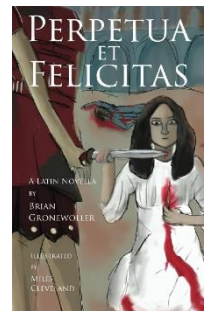


The author provides no unique or total word count or unique word count

Perpetua et Felicitas, by Brian Gronewoller

Perpetua and Felicity are young women living in Roman North Africa with their whole lives ahead of them . . . until they find themselves in a Roman prison cell.

Based on the *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (*The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*), it is believed to have been written by Perpetua herself as she kept a diary during her imprisonment leading up to her martyrdom. The story is one of the most influential and famous martyr narratives in the Christian tradition. This Latin novella reimagines their stories for low- to mid-intermediate readers of Latin.



The author provides no unique or total word count or unique word count

Cloelia puella Römāna, by Ellie Arnold

Latin novella based on actual Roman history about a brave 10-year-old girl who is involved with the fall of the Romans kings and the dawn of the Roman Republic. Excellent description of characters and glossary at the back of the book.



The novellas **Lars Romam odit!** by Andrew Olimpi, and **Unus romanus**, by Michael Dybicz (See both above) tell a similar story with simpler vocabulary and take place during the same time period.

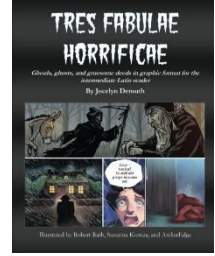
Caution: scenes of rape and suicide. The author writes that two chapters can be skipped without hurting the comprehension of the story.

- **209 effective unique words**
- **3,470 total words**

Tres Fabulae Horrificae, by Jocelyn Demuth

A low intermediate Latin reader with three horror stories in a graphic format. Quality color drawings throughout.

- Story #1 is about a trio of unsavory friends who get what's coming to them. It tells the same tale found in the book **Ubi Mors Habitat**, by Andrew Olimpi (See above), which is an adaptation of Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Tale*.
 - Story #2 is an adaptation of the well-known short horror story *The Monkey's Paw*—a classic 'Be careful what you wish for' tale.
 - Story #3 is a scary Swedish folktale re-envisioned and set in ancient Rome.
 - **215-325** unique words, depending on the story
 - **2,300** total words
- Recommended—Worth reading several times.**



Catō Minor, Puer Inversus et Pendulus, by John Bruce Fowler III

This is another story about young Mārcus Catō, who plays hide-and-seek in a Roman house and interacts with a stranger. Set in ancient Rome.

The glossary is hard to read. There is no introduction, no information about the author, and no table of contents. Illustrated with occasional low quality black and white drawings. But... some students liked this book.



There are uncommon word choices for a beginning Latin novel. The author uses:

- ***perplacet*** instead of the more common verb ***placet***.
- Forms of ***aiō*** when the more common ***dīcō*** might do.

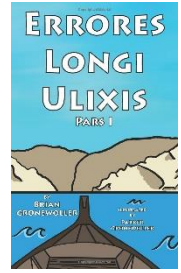
This seems to have been written to support a unit on 'the house' in a traditional textbook. There is a flood of house and kitchen vocabulary that may eventually be good for learners to know but clogs up and distracts from this novice-level story by overdoing it. Some of the over-done house vocabulary crammed into the story:

<i>atrium</i>	courtyard, atrium	<i>domō, domus</i>	house, home	<i>parietis</i>	wall
<i>balneam</i>	bath	<i>dulcia</i>	sweets	<i>pedeplāna</i>	ground level
<i>cēnātiō</i>	dinner	<i>fenestram</i>	window	<i>sella</i>	chair
<i>comedere</i>	to eat	<i>hortus</i>	garden	<i>statua</i>	statue
<i>conclave</i>	room	<i>hospes</i>	guest	<i>tabulātum</i>	floor, story
<i>coque</i>	cook	<i>ianuam</i>	door	<i>tectum</i>	roof
<i>coquit</i>	he cooks	<i>mensa</i>	table	<i>triclinium</i>	dining room
<i>crūstulum</i>	cookie	<i>lampadibus</i>	with lamps	<i>vestibulum</i>	hallway
<i>cubiculum</i>	bedroom	<i>lectus</i>	bed		
<i>culīna</i>	kitchen	<i>pānis</i>	bread		

- **220** unique words (This estimate by the author may be too high—the actual word count seems lower to me.)
- **3,800** total words

Errores Longi Ulixis, Pars I, by Brian Gronewoller

After ten years of war the Greeks have finally conquered Troy and are ready to sail home. Their actions following the victory, however, have angered Neptune and Minerva. And Odysseus (Ulysses), Eurylochus, and Elpenor are about to learn that angry gods and goddesses can change a brief cruise across the Mediterranean into a long adventure as they wander through unknown lands filled with strange fruit, cannibals, and giants. This novella is based on Homer's epic poem about Odysseus and his long journey home from Troy.



This novella is the first part of Odysseus's long journey home after the Trojan War. See part 2 here:

Errores Longi Ulixis, Pars II.

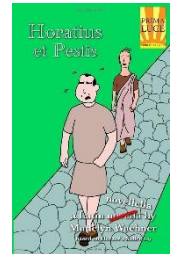
The giant cyclops Polyphemus appears in this story. He also is the main character in **Ego, Polyphemus**, by Andrew Olimpi (above).

- **235** unique words
- **4,500** total words

Horatius et Pestis, by Madelyn Waehner

Horace doesn't like people. Horace likes to be alone. Today is a bad day for Horace. Can Horace ever find peace with this pest following him? A short, relatable story based on Satire 1.9 by the Roman poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65 BC – 8 BC), known as Hoarce in English.

- **240** unique words
- **820** total words



Bellum Troianum, by Brian Gronewoller

The gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus are enjoying themselves at a party when, suddenly, an apple addressed "to the most beautiful" appears in their midst. The ensuing fight for the apple between Juno, Minerva, and Venus soon spills over to earth and pulls Paris, Helen, Menelaus, Agamemnon, Hector, and Achilles into ten years of war between Greece and Troy.

- **250** unique words
- **5,500** total words



↑ **250 or fewer unique words** ↑

↓ More than 250 unique words ↓
• Intermediate / Level 3 •

(Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Cupīdō et Psȳchē, by Rachel Beth Cuning

The classic myth of Cupid and Psyche: a fairy tale, a love story, and an allegory adapted from the tale told by Apuleius in *Metamorphoses*. This book would pair nicely with **Filia regis et monstrum horribile**, by Andrew Olimpi (above), which tells the same story with simpler vocabulary. Novice High – Intermediate Low Latin students would do well to start with Olimpi's book and then read this one to get an embedded reading-type experience.

Word count: 350 – proper names, cognates, and glossed words =

- 253 effective unique words
- 8,800 total words

Highly Recommended

The story includes emotional cruelty.



Errores Longi Ulixis, Pars II, by Brian Gronewoller

Odysseus (Ulysses) and his companions have been trying to sail home from the Trojan War for more than a year. Angry gods and goddesses, however, have sent them wandering through dangerous and unfamiliar lands. Most of the crew has perished. Only one ship has survived, and a mysterious enchantress has transformed many of the survivors into pigs.

Now, Odysseus, Eurylochus, and Elpenor must overcome nymphs, ghosts, monsters, the gods, and trip to the underworld. If they ever want to see their beloved island of Ithaca again.

This novella is the second part of Odysseus's long journey home after the Trojan War. It is loosely based on Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*. See part 1 here: **Errores Longi Ulixis, Pars I**.

Mercurius (the Roman god Mercury) appears in this story. Mercury is also the subject of **Mercurius infans horribilis**, by Andrew Olimpi, and **Mercurius omnia furatur**, by John Foulk (above). Reading those two books first may help you to understand this popular Roman god.

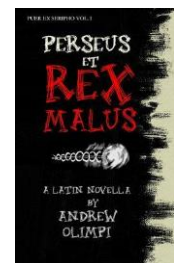
- 290 unique words
- 4,500 total words



Perseus et Rex Malus, by Andrew Olimpi

A retelling of the myth of the Greek hero Perseus, inspired by ancient and medieval writers.

Perseus is a twelve-year-old boy who lives on the island of Seriphos. One day his world is turned upside down when the cruel king of the island, Polydectes, casts his eye upon Perseus' mother, Danaë. Polydectes is seeking a new bride, but Danaë refuses, setting in motion a chain of events that includes a mysterious box, a cave whose walls are covered with strange writing, and a dark family secret. "Perseus et Rex Malus" is the first of a two-part adventure based on the



Greek myth of Perseus. Be sure to read the continuation and satisfying ending of this story in [Perseus et Medusa](#) (below).

- **300** unique words
- **3,500** total words

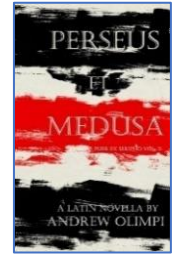
[Highly Recommended](#)

[Perseus et Medusa](#) by Andrew Olimpi

A continuation of the myth of Perseus that began in [Perseus et Rex Malus](#). The ending ties the story arc of the two books together in a satisfying way.

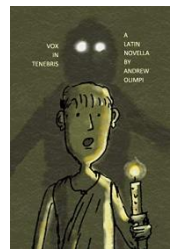
- **300** unique words
- **3,880** total words

[Highly Recommended](#)



[Vox in Tenebris](#) by Andrew Olimpi

Lucanus, a Roman citizen travelling through Greece, has a big problem: he is far from home, broke, and desperate to make some quick money. A job opportunity soon comes his way, with a big reward: one hundred gold coins! The catch? Lucanus has to stay up all night with the dead body of a prominent citizen. Lucanus takes the job, even though he's heard the stories that citizens of the town whisper: tales of witches, ruthless and bloodthirsty, who wander the streets after the sun the sun goes down . . .



This novella, accessible to intermediate readers of Latin, is a rollicking and thrilling adaptation of a famous episode from Apuleius' ancient book *Metamorphoses*. This volume includes marginal glosses of unusual vocabulary, a full glossary, and over 100 illustrations.

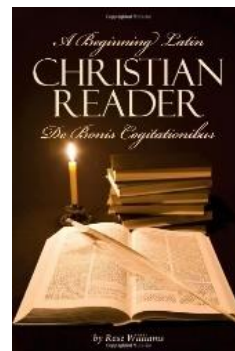
The author provides no total word count or unique word count.

[A Beginning Latin Christian Reader: De Bonis Cogitationibus \(I\)](#),

by Rose Williams

This is a graded reader in Latin. It goes from **novice-mid to intermediate level** readings. It will help students to understand and appreciate the “good thoughts” from Holy Scripture and classical antiquity. The book is organized something like Martin Luther’s Table of Duties in the *Small Catechism* in that each section focuses on a role in life and its corresponding obligations. There are adapted Scriptures, plus a short glossary for each section to help with unknown words. Starting in section VI there are also adapted readings from the church fathers and ancient Roman literature. The reading level increases with each section. There are nine appendices explaining the grammar, plus a complete glossary at the back of the book.

Section I	Animalia
Section II	Fēmina Bona
Section III	Vir Bonus
Section IV	Iuvenēs Bonī
Section V	Senēs
Section VI	Mātrēs et Liberī
Section VII	Patrēs et Liberī
Section VIII	Amīcī
Section IX	Amīcī Hominum
Section X	Dominī
Section XI	Magistrī et Discipulī
Section XII	Societās



Section XIII Deus et Vir

Section XIV Vir Fidei

The author provides no total or unique word count.

Highly Recommended

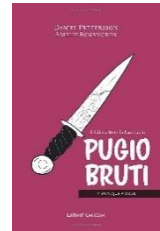
Pugio Bruti: A Crime Story in Easy Latin, by Daniel Petterson & Amelie Rosengren

When Terentia's father dies, he leaves her the only thing he has left—a dagger and the words “It will lead you to...”. Alone in Rome, Terentia goes out to find the secret behind her father's dagger. But she is not the only one, and soon she is fighting for the dagger, its secret, and her own future.

This is a full-length story in the style of classical Latin for Intermediate Low students, a steppingstone to reading authentic classical Latin.

• **350** unique words

• **9,000** total words



↑ **350 or fewer unique words** ↑

↓ **More than 350 unique words** ↓

• **Advanced Intermediate / Level 3 - 4** •

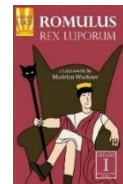
(Click on the book title or the image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Romulus rex luporum, by Madelyn Wauhner

Latin novella based on the life of Romulus, the founder and first king of Rome.

• **566** unique words

• **5,200** total words



Ritchie's Fabulae Faciles, by Francis Ritchie, compiled by Geoffrey Steadman

This is a graded reader of Latin stories for the intermediate Latin student. It was composed to give students practice before reading Caesar's Gallic War. Includes the myths of Perseus, Heracles, Jason and the Argonauts, and Ulysses. The text is divided into 100 bite-sized sections of Latin which are roughly a paragraph in length.

From the Introduction:

“Ritchie's purpose is to provide readers with an opportunity to master simple Latin grammar and morphology before they encounter more complex constructions in the later stories, and he does so while presenting students with an informative and thoroughly engaging storyline.”



Facing each page of Latin is a commentary with vocabulary and grammatical notes.

The author provides no total word count or unique word count.

Recommended for focused students.

Learn Latin with Beginner Stories

Aesop's Fables in a word-for-word Latin/English interlinear format. The stories are short and many of them are well-known. The text is not simplified, but the English helps immensely with understanding. Aesop's fables come highly recommended:

“Aesop contains the most delightful stories and descriptions. Moral teachings, if offered to young people, will contribute much to their edification. In short, next to the Bible, the writings of Cato and Aesop are in my opinion the best.”

—Martin Luther, Luther's Works 54:210-211

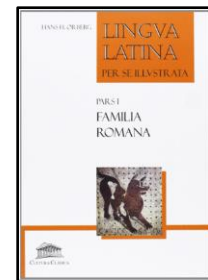
The publisher provides no total or unique word count.



Lingua Latina per se illustrata, by Hans Ørberg.

All levels of Latin could theoretically benefit from this book, but mainly mature students.

This is one of the most-used texts by older students for learning Latin. It starts off easy, taking readers from zero knowledge of the language to an understanding of the top 2,000 or so words used in classical Latin. It is all contextual and there is no translation. At all. None. Meaning is communicated by cartoons, cartography, cognates, comparisons, and context. Mature and motivated students will get the most out of this book—everyone else will struggle. The first few chapters breeze by, but the vocabulary piles up quickly. There is insufficient repetition of new words for most novices to acquire them.



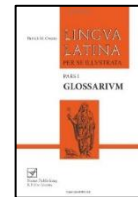
The author provides no word counts, but the **unique word count is likely 2,435 words (!)** See below.

Recommended for mature and highly focused students.

Glossarium: Pars I (Lingua Latina)

A convenient, single-volume vocabulary reference for Pars I of the Lingua Latina per se illustrata series Familia Romana, by Hans H. Ørberg (above). This Latin-to-English glossary includes all of the vocabulary which a first-year student can be expected to encounter, in Familia Romana. I would check out both of these.

Includes **2,435 Latin words** with their English equivalents from Lingua Latina per se.



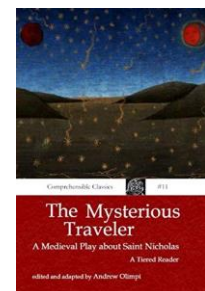
The Mysterious Traveler: A Medieval Play about Saint Nicholas

by Andrew Olimpí

All levels of Latin could benefit from this book due to the multiple levels.

This is a “tiered” version of an anonymous medieval play, Miraculum Sancti Nicholai. It presents the original Latin text along with two other versions in simpler Latin. Intermediate Latin readers can progress quickly through the tiers until they can easily read the original text without the need for vocabulary or grammatical notes. Also included are a full glossary and full performance scripts of all three versions of the play.

The author provides no total or unique word count.



Daedalus et Icarus: A Tiered Latin Reader

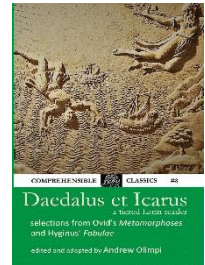
by Andrew Olimpí

All levels of Latin could theoretically benefit from this book. It starts out easy.

This is another “tiered” story, this one is about the renowned Greek architect **Daedalus**, who is also referred to in the story of the **Minotaur**. Instead of extensive vocabulary glosses and grammatical notes, the book uses tiered readings of increasing complexity so that Novice High students can begin reading right away and improve their Latin proficiency as they move from simple, adapted readings up to original, authentic classical texts by the Roman authors Ovid and Hyginus.

The author provides no total or unique word count.

Recommended



Aesop's Fables in Latin, by Laura Gibbs

This intermediate Latin reader includes 80 of Aesop's fables in Latin prose. Includes 40 black and white illustrations by the 17th century artist Francis Barlow. There are also many extra helps.

Aesop's fables are valuable for teaching about life, and the language comes along for the ride:

“Mutato nomine, de te fabula narratur.”

“With the name changed, the fable is talking about you.”

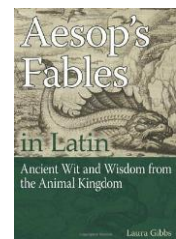
—Horace, *Satires* I.1

“Aesop contains the most delightful stories and descriptions. Moral teachings, if offered to young people, will contribute much to their edification. In short, next to the Bible, the writings of Cato and Aesop are in my opinion the best.”

—Martin Luther, *Luther's Works* 54:210-211

Author provides no unique or total word count.

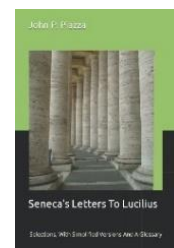
Highly Recommended



Seneca's Letters to Lucilius, by John P. Piazza

Selections from Seneca's *Epistulae Morales* with advice on how to live well. Written in a tiered (embedded reading) style which scaffolds the reading by providing a simplified version first and an unadapted version following. This will be valuable to students in Latin 4 and above that want to begin to read authentic Latin.

Author provides no unique or total word count.



Cantionale Lutheranum

All levels of Latin can benefit from this book.

Latin Order of Matins and Vespers with the Litany, Catechism, Psalms, and Hymns for use in Lutheran Schools. Consists of an English introduction followed by Latin text of Lutheran prayer offices for morning and evening, as well as collects and responsories. Full, pointed psalter with canticles (to be sung to simple tones) is included, and 85 *kernlieder*, or Lutheran chorales, translated from German into Latin by Lutheran clergy. Modern musical notation is included with the prayer services, Litany, and hymns (melody line only), and optional psalm tones are provided before the psalter.

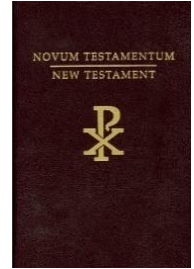
Recommended



Latin/English New Testament

All levels of Latin can benefit from this book.

We will use passages of Scripture in Latin from the Vulgate for memorization. When students are ready, the Latin Vulgate Bible may be the ideal bridge between the language learner literature in the novellas above and classical Latin literature. Classical Latin was written by highly educated authors for their highly educated readers—and the vocabulary and grammar are at a high level—mostly inaccessible to novice and intermediate learners of Latin. The Vulgate was written for the common people so that they could understand the Word of God in what was then their shared language: Latin. It is authentic Latin but written with simpler language than the classical Latin literature that students may eventually be able to read.



Students who have read the New Testament in English may be able to read portions even as novices due to familiarity with the text.

Highly Recommended

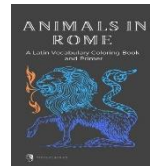
TITVS CLASSICS Coloring Books

Click on the book title to buy directly from TITVS CLASSICS

TITVS CLASSICS is a company based in Manhattan, Kansas. They produce charming coloring books with Latin and English text. These books would work well with Pre-K to 2nd grade students, preparing them for Latin classes, but they are also fun and relaxing for older students and reinforce vocabulary along the way. Schools or homeschool groups can purchase a license to print pages from these books. Contact TITVS CLASSICS directly at <https://titvsclassics.com/>.

If younger students or siblings of older students are interested in coloring images from these books TITVS CLASSICS sells a license to download them and print them.

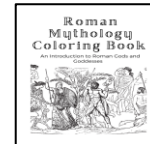
Animals in Rome, a Latin vocabulary coloring book, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text. This could be used as a primer to Lance Piantaginni's *Syra et Animālia*.



Latin Astronomy, an astronomy coloring book, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text. This could be used as a primer to Rachel Beth Cuning's book *Astronōmia: Fābula Planetārum*.



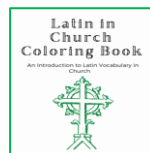
Roman Mythology Coloring Book, an introduction to Roman gods and goddesses, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text. Knowing some Roman mythology will help students to understand the references in stories in Latin class as well as understanding human psychology.



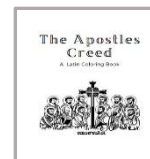
Latin Medicine, a Latin vocabulary coloring book and medical primer, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text. Many terms used in medicine come from Latin. This book is an introduction to some of that vocabulary.



Latin in Church Coloring Book, an introduction to Latin Vocabulary in the church, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text. Many Latin words are still used in church every week. Students have seen them on banners, vestments, and on other decorations in the church. They have heard many of these in the liturgy and read them in hymnals, now they'll know what they mean.



The Apostles Creed, a Latin coloring book, by TITVS CLASSICS. English and Latin text.



PICTURE BOOKS

**Picture books are used best when they are read aloud
and when they are read many times.**

Reading aloud in Latin (by a teacher, sibling, tutor, or parent) helps bring stories to life. These books can and should be read again and again. Reading the same picture book at different times in the school year is also a solid practice because the student will notice and understand different cultural elements, words, and grammatical structures each time.

Keep in mind that students need not translate every word and they do not need to know all of the grammar before reading—the illustrations in picture books help to clarify the meanings of unknown words and grammatical structures.

A weakness of picture books is the relatively low number of total words. Each word may appear only once or twice. The **Unique Word Count** to **Total Word Count** ratio in picture books is poor compared to chapter books. With a low ratio there are not enough repetitions of words for most students to acquire them. Students would have to read each book many, many times to begin to approach the amount of language they would get from reading just one chapter book. But they can be valuable. The illustrations are enticing. Learning can happen with picture books because the illustrations draw in young readers and the format entices them to read those books again and again.

Also keep in mind that just because it is a picture book does not mean it is the easiest to read. There are many books on the chapter book reading lists below that are easier to read.

Books from the *I Am Reading Latin* Series

(Click on the book title or image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Ursus et Porcus / The Bear and The Pig, by Rose Williams

Simple story with controlled vocabulary. Not bad, as picture books go.

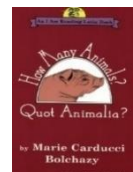
- **35** unique word words
- **170** total words



How Many Animals? Quot Animalia?, by Marie Carducci Bolchazy

Animals and numbers. That's it. No story. Black and white drawings.

- **40** unique words
- **112** total words

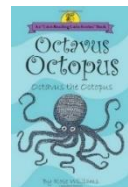


Octavus Octopus: Octavus the Octopus, by Rose Williams

A little octopus doesn't appreciate his home until he leaves it.

- **55** unique words
- **189** total words

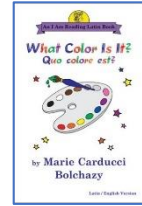
Recommended



Quo colore est?, by Marie Carducci Bolchazy

Picture book about colors. The illustrations help with comprehension. This would be a good one for parents to buy for younger students so that they can demonstrate comprehension by coloring in the black and white drawings.

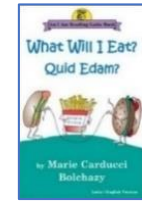
- 57 unique words
- 179 total words



What Will I Eat? Quid Edam?, by Marie Carducci Bolchazy

Simplistic book that lists foods with black and white drawings. No story, just food.

- 61 unique words
- 135 total words

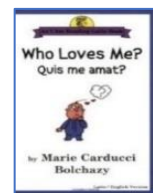


Who Loves Me? Quis me amat?, by Marie Carducci Bolchazy

Simple silly picture book with low quality illustrations and no story. It can be helpful to learn family member names in Latin. But my younger students (3rd-6th graders) inexplicably liked this book. A lot. It was always checked out and they were always talking about it (?).

- 63 unique words
- 165 total words

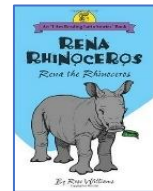
Recommended



Rena Rhinoceros, by Rose Williams

Picture book about a baby rhino. The illustrations help with comprehension. Translation and glossary in the back.

- 63 unique words
- 262 total words

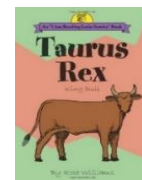


Taurus Rex, by Rose Williams

A simple and short story about a bull that learns a lesson—that size is not everything and that everyone needs friends.

- 78 unique words
- 198 total words

Recommended



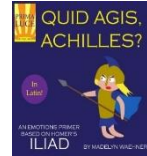
Other Latin Picture Books

(Click on the book title or image to buy directly from Amazon.com)

Quid agis, Achilles?, by Madelyn Waehner

This is a simple book that introduces the words for emotions. It is based on *The Iliad*, by Homer, the most famous story from ancient Greece.

- 14 unique word words
- 52 total words

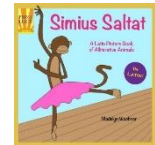


Simius Saltat, by Madelyn Waehner

A picture book that matches animal words with verbs beginning with the same letter. Cute, colorful drawings.

- 55 unique words
- 206 total words

Recommended



Explore Latin: Avēs, by Emma Vanderpool

A non-fiction picture book about birds. Quality color photographs, plus interesting facts in vocabulary-controlled Latin make this book a winner for animal lovers.

- 97 unique words
- 565 total words

Highly Recommended



My First 100 Latin Words, No author listed.

Picture book about common words in Latin. No glossary, but the illustrations make the word meanings obvious. This is more like a beginning picture dictionary. No story. It has the highest possible Unique Words to Total Words ratio (1: 1), so words are not repeated. Since there is limited exposure to each word, acquisition is unlikely. It's still fun to look at though.

- 100 unique words
- 100 total words



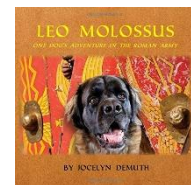
Leo Molossus, One Dog's Adventure in the Roman Army, by Jocelyn Demuth

Picture book about a Molossus dog (a large and ferocious breed that was the ancestor of the modern mastiff), who goes on an adventure with his owner, Decius. **This is a good book to read aloud to students.**

150 unique words (in the glossary) – 27 words glossed in the text, 6 cognates, 5 proper nouns unique to this story (38) =

- 122 effective unique words
- 984 total words

Highly Recommended



Ovidius Mus, by Jocelyn Demuth

Three charming stories about mice in the Roman world. Illustrated with quality felt cutouts. The 3rd story, beginning on page 25, is a version of **Pygmalion**.
237 unique words (in the glossary) – 34 words glossed in the text, 22 cognates, 6 proper nouns unique to these stories =

- **175** effective unique words
- **868** total words

Recommended

