

A
Pliny
WORKBOOK
20 Letters and Suggested Companion Texts

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Pliny

REQUIRED LETTERS

Letter 6.4

Separation Anxiety

C. PLĪNIUS CALPURNIAE SUAE S.

1 Numquam sum magis dē occupātiōnibus meis questus,
quae mē nōn sunt passae aut proficiscentem tē valētūdinis causā
in Campāniam prōsequī aut profectam ē vestigiō subsequī.

5 2 Nunc enim praecipuē simul esse cupiēbam, ut oculis meis
crēderem quid vīribus quid corpusculō apparārēs, ecquid
dēnique sēcussus voluptātēs regiōnisque abundantiam inoffēnsa
trāsmitterēs.

3 Equidem etiam fortem tē nōn sine cūrā dēsiderārem; est enim
10 suspēsum et ānxium dē eō quem ārdentissimē diligās interdum
nihil scīre. 4 Nunc vērō mē cum absentiae tum infirmitātis tuae
ratiō incertā et variā sollicitūdine exterret. Vereor omnia,
imāginor omnia, quaeque nātūra metuentium est, ea maximē mihi
quae maximē abōminor fingō. 5 Quō impēnsius rogō, ut timōrī
15 meō cottidiē singulis vel etiam binīs epistulis cōsulās. Erō enim
sēcūrior dum legō, statimque timēbō cum lēgerō. Valē.

First Reading Short Answer Questions

1. Who is writing to whom? How do you know?

2. Therefore, to whom does *me* refer (line 3)? To whom does *te* refer (line 3)?

3. Considering your answer to question 2, to whom do all the first person and second person verbs refer?

first person: _____

second person: _____

4. What are some words that stand out to you? What are some potential themes that arise from these words?

5. Finally, based on your first reading and the information gathered from the questions above, what do you think is the central concern of this letter?

Multiple Choice Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the subject of the first clause (*Numquam sum . . . questus*)?
 - a. Pliny
 - b. Calpurnia
2. What is the author complaining about in the first sentence (*Numquam sum . . . subsequi*)?
 - a. The author's duties are preventing the author and recipient from being together.
 - b. The author wants to leave Campania, but his duties will not allow it.
 - c. The author's duties have made him ill.
 - d. The author's duties are difficult.
3. What does the author want in lines 5–6 (*Nunc enim . . . apparares*)?
 - a. to see Campania in person
 - b. to experience the pleasures of Campania
 - c. to see that the recipient of the letter is getting better
 - d. to experience the good health that comes from a stay in Campania
4. What does the author want in lines 6–8 (*ecquid denique . . . transmitteres*)?
 - a. that the recipient leave Campania to go home
 - b. that the recipient take over duties in Rome
 - c. that the recipient send some delicacies of Campania
 - d. that the recipient be able to enjoy Campania
5. What emotion is the author experiencing in line 9 (*Equidem . . . desiderarem*)?
 - a. joy
 - b. fear
 - c. anger
 - d. longing

6. What emotion is the author describing in lines 9–11 (*est enim . . . scire*)?
 - a. joy
 - b. fear
 - c. anger
 - d. longing
7. What is the cause of the emotion described in lines 9–11 (*est enim . . . scire*)?
 - a. lack of time
 - b. lack of knowledge
 - c. lack of energy
 - d. lack of resources
8. In lines 11–14 (*Nunc . . . fingo*), the author indicates that he has
 - a. begun to think the worst
 - b. decided he needs to rush home
 - c. begun to look for a solution
 - d. begun to lose hope
9. What does the author ask the recipient to do in lines 14–15 (*Quo impensius . . . consulas*)?
 - a. return home
 - b. not work so hard
 - c. write frequent letters
 - d. fear the future
10. What does the author believe will result if the recipient fulfills this request?
 - a. The author will get some temporary relief.
 - b. The problem will be solved.
 - c. The author will be able to finish his duties.
 - d. The recipient will recover from illness.

Multiple Choice Grammar, Syntax, and Rhetoric Questions

1. What is the present infinitive of *sum . . . questus* in line 2?
 - a. *quaerere*
 - b. *queri*
 - c. *querare*
 - d. *quaesere*
2. What is the antecedent of *quae* in line 3?
 - a. *ego* (implied)
 - b. *magis*
 - c. *occupationibus*
 - d. *valetudinis*
3. What word does the participle *proficiscentem* in line 3 modify?
 - a. *quae*
 - b. *me*
 - c. *te*
 - d. *valetudinis*
4. *prosequi* and *subsequi* in line 4 are infinitives. Why?
 - a. complementary infinitives
 - b. historical infinitives
 - c. infinitives of purpose
 - d. infinitives in indirect statement

5. What kind of clause is *ut oculis meis crederem* in lines 5–6?
 - a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
6. What kind of clause is *quid viribus quid corpusculo apparares* in line 6?
 - a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
7. What case is *secessus* in line 7?
 - a. nominative
 - b. genitive
 - c. dative
 - d. accusative
8. What do *suspensum* and *anxium* in line 10 modify?
 - a. *te*
 - b. *eo*
 - c. *quem*
 - d. *nihil scire*
9. Why is *diligas* in line 10 in the subjunctive?
 - a. indirect question
 - b. relative clause of characteristic
 - c. temporal clause
 - d. purpose clause
10. Which word does *incerta* in line 12 modify?
 - a. *absentiae*
 - b. *infirmittatis*
 - c. *ratio*
 - d. *sollicitudine*
11. What is the subject of *est* in line 13?
 - a. *omnia*
 - b. Pliny
 - c. *quaeque*
 - d. *ea*
12. What part of speech is *impensius* in line 14?
 - a. noun
 - b. adjective
 - c. adverb
 - d. verb
13. What type of clause is *ut timori meo cottidie singulis vel etiam binis epistulis consulas* in lines 14–15?
 - a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
14. Why is *timori meo* in the dative case in line 14–15?
 - a. dative of indirect object
 - b. dative of reference
 - c. dative of possession
 - d. dative with special verb

15. What tense and mood is *legero* in line 16?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. present indicative | b. present subjunctive |
| c. perfect subjunctive | d. future perfect indicative |

Questions to Guide Translation and Interpretation

Line 2

Translate the phrase *Numquam sum magis . . . questus*.

Line 3

What is the subject of *sunt passae* ?

Translate *valetudinis causa* idiomatically.

Line 4

What type of participle is *profectam* and what word does it modify?

Lines 5–6

Explain what question the phrase *ut oculis meis crederem* answers.

Translate *ut oculis meis crederem* in this context.

Line 6

What case are *viribus* and *corpusculo*? Why are they in this case? Translate them in this context.

Line 7

Who or what does *inoffensa* describe? Translate *inoffensa* in this context.

Line 9

What rhetorical device is represented by the phrase *non sine cura*? Translate *non sine cura*.

Line 10

What is the antecedent of *quem*? To what does the antecedent refer?

Line 12

What is the subject and what is the direct object of the verb *exterret*? Explain how the subject and object fit together in this sentence.

Line 13

What form is *metuentium*? What case and number is *metuentium*? Translate idiomatically.

Line 14

What case, number, and gender is *quae*? What is its antecedent?

Describe the use of *Quo* in the phrase *Quo impensius rogo*.

Line 15

What tense and mood is *consulas*? Why?

Lines 15–16

Describe how the tenses of the verbs in the last sentence indicate the sequence of actions (*Ero enim securior dum lego, statimque timebo cum legero*).

Translation

Translate the following passage, sticking as closely to the Latin as possible without obscuring the meaning. Make sure to use the information gathered in the preceding sections as you work.

C. PLINIUS CALPURNIAE SUAE S.

**1 Numquam sum magis de occupationibus meis questus,
quae me non sunt passae aut proficiscentem te valetudinis causa
in Campaniam prosequi aut profectam e vestigio subsequi.**

**5 2 Nunc enim praecipue simul esse cupiebam, ut oculis meis
crederem quid viribus quid corpusculo apparares, ecquid
denique secessus voluptates regionisque abundantiam inoffensa
transmitteres.**

Short Analysis Questions

Numquam sum magis de occupationibus meis questus, quae me non sunt passae aut proficiscentem te valetudinis causa in Campaniam prosequi aut profectam e vestigio subsequi.

1. Roman men of the political class, such as Pliny, were expected to demonstrate *pietas* (duty) to both the family (*familia*) and the state (*patria*). Explain how those two values are at odds in the first sentence of this letter.

**Equidem etiam fortem te non sine cura desiderarem; est enim suspensum et anxium de eo quem ardentissime diligas interdum nihil scire. Nunc vero me cum absentiae tum infirmitatis tuae ratio incerta et varia sollicitudine exterret. Vereor omnia, imaginor
5 omnia, quaeque natura metuentium est, ea maxime mihi quae maxime abominor fingo.**

2. In this excerpt, Pliny expresses strong emotions. What is he feeling and what words does he use to highlight his state of mind?

**Quo impensius rogo, ut timori meo cottidie singulis vel etiam
binis epistulis consulas. Ero enim securior dum lego, statimque
timebo cum legero.**

3. In lines 14–16, Pliny makes a request of Calpurnia. However, he then expresses doubt about whether fulfillment of his request will truly solve his problems. What request does Pliny make, and how does he question its potential impact?

Short Essay

“Knowledge is power” goes a traditional saying. In a short essay, discuss how the thoughts and feelings of the author described in this letter support the idea that knowledge provides a type of power. What words or phrases emphasize this relationship?

Your short essay response should fully answer all parts of the essay question. Include specific Latin citations from the passage, Letter 6.4. Provide the Latin and/or cite line numbers AND translate or accurately paraphrase the Latin. Explain how the Latin citations support your response. Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper.

———— SUGGESTED LETTERS ————

Letter 1.6

Hunting for Inspiration

C. PLĪNIUS CORNĒLIŌ TACITŌ SUŌ S.

1 Rīdēbis, et licet rīdeās. Ego, ille quem nōstī, aprōs trēs et quidem
pulcherrimōs cēpī. “Ipse?” inquis. Ipse; nōn tamen ut omnīnō ab
inertiā meā et quiēte discēderem. Ad rētia sedēbam; erat in
5 proximō nōn vēnābulum aut lancea, sed stilus et pugillārēs;
meditābar aliquid ēnotābamque, ut sī manūs vacuās, plēnās
tamen cērās reportārem.

2 Nōn est quod contemnās hoc studendī genus; mīrum est ut
animus agitātiōne mōtūque corporis excitētur; iam undique
10 silvae et sōlitūdō ipsumque illud silentium quod vēnātiōnī datur,
magna cōgitātiōnis incitāmenta sunt. 3 Proinde cum vēnābere,
licēbit auctōre mē ut pānārium et lagunculam sīc etiam pugillārēs
ferās: experiēris nōn Diānam magis montibus quam Minervam
inerrāre. Valē.

First Reading Short Answer Questions

1. To whom is Pliny writing?

2. Based on the opening sentence, what do you expect the tone of this letter to be?

3. Scan this letter and find the nouns. Look up any words you don't know. What activities do they represent?

4. Two goddesses are mentioned. Who are they and what do they each individually represent?

Multiple Choice Comprehension Questions

1. What does Pliny say that he accomplished in line 2?
 - a. He has had a good laugh with Tacitus.
 - b. He went hunting on Tacitus's property.
 - c. He has met three very handsome men.
 - d. He has had a successful hunt.
2. How does Pliny think Tacitus will react to the reported accomplishment?
 - a. He will be overjoyed.
 - b. He will find it amusing.
 - c. He will be angry.
 - d. He will be jealous.
3. What did Pliny bring with him to the hunt?
 - a. a hunting spear and a stylus
 - b. a hunting spear and a notebook
 - c. a net and a notebook
 - d. a stylus and a notebook
4. Why did Pliny bring these things?
 - a. so that he wouldn't come back empty handed
 - b. he feels hunting is boring
 - c. to maximize his chances of a successful hunt
 - d. he is writing a book on hunting
5. How does Pliny think Tacitus will feel about his choices?
 - a. He fears Tacitus will look down on him.
 - b. He thinks Tacitus will agree with him.
 - c. He fears Tacitus will be angry with him.
 - d. He thinks Tacitus will be happy for him.
6. What surprised Pliny about his hunting experience?
 - a. how much fun it was to go hunting
 - b. how difficult it was to go hunting
 - c. how much hunting helped him think
 - d. how much hunting interfered with his writing
7. What does Pliny suggest to Tacitus?
 - a. to come hunting with him
 - b. to approach hunting as he does
 - c. to avoid hunting in favor of writing
 - d. to go to the temple of Diana

———— COMPANION TEXTS ————

EUTROPIUS

Breviarium Historiae Romanae

Breviarium Historiae Romanae 8.1

Dē Nervā Imperātōre

1 Annō octingentēsīmō et quīnquāgēsīmō ab urbe conditā,
 Vetere et Valente cōsulibus rēs pūblica ad prosperrimum
 statum rediit bonis prīncipibus ingentī fēlicitatē commissa.
 Domitiānō enim exitiābili tyrannō, Nervā successit, vir in
 5 prīvātā vitā moderātus et strēnuus, nōbilitātis mediae.
 Quī senex admodum operam dante Petrōniō Secundō,
 praefectō praetōriō, item Partheniō interfectōre Domitiānī,
 imperātor est factus; aequissimum sē et cīvīlissimum praebuit.
 Reī pūblīcae dīvinā prōvisiōne cōsultuit Traiānum adoptandō.
 10 Mortuus est Rōmae post annum et quattuor mēnsēs imperiī
 suī ac diēs octo, aetātis septuāgēsīmō et alterō annō, atque inter
 Dīvōs relātus est.

Multiple Choice Questions

COMPREHENSION, GRAMMAR, AND SYNTAX

1. *Anno octingentesimo et quinquagesimo ab urbe condita* (line 1) is what year on the modern calendar?
 - a. 850 BCE
 - b. 850 CE
 - c. 97 BCE
 - d. 97 CE
2. What use of the ablative is *Vetere et Valente consulibus* in line 2?
 - a. ablative of means
 - b. ablative absolute
 - c. ablative of time
 - d. ablative of separation
3. *commissa* in line 3 modifies
 - a. urbe (line 1)
 - b. Valente (line 2)
 - c. res (line 2)
 - d. felicitate (line 3)

-
4. Nerva is described in lines 4–5 as
 - a. a hated tyrant
 - b. a moderator of private life
 - c. a man of middling rank
 - d. very strong and noble
 5. Which of the following accurately represents the assassination referenced in line 7?
 - a. Nerva killed Domitian
 - b. Domitian killed Petronius Secundus
 - c. Domitian killed Nerva
 - d. Parthenius killed Domitian
 6. What is the syntax of *adoptando* in line 9?
 - a. gerund
 - b. gerundive
 - c. present active participle
 - d. future active participle
 7. How long was Nerva emperor?
 - a. one year, four months, and eight days
 - b. four years, four months, and eight days
 - c. four months and eight days
 - d. one year, eight months, and four days
 8. How old was Nerva when he died?
 - a. seventy
 - b. seventy-one
 - c. seventy-two
 - d. seventy-seven

Breviarium Historiae Romanae 8.2

Dē Traiānō Imperātōre I

- 2 Successit ei Ulpus Crinitus Traianus, natus Italicae in
 Hispaniā, familiā antiquā magis quam clārā. Nam pater eius
 primum cōsul fuit. Imperator autem apud Agrippinam
 in Galliis factus est. Rem publicam ita administravit, ut
 5 omnibus principibus meritō praeferatur, inusitatae civilitatis
 et fortitudinis. Rōmāni imperiū, quod post Augustum
 dēfensum magis fuerat quam nōbiliter ampliātum, finēs longē
 lātēque diffūdīt. Urbēs trāns Rhēnum in Germāniā reparāvit.
 Dāciam Decibālō victō subēgit, prōvincia trāns Danubium
 10 facta in hīs agrīs, quōs nunc Taifālī, Victoālī et Tervingī habent.
 Eā prōvinciā deciēs centēna milia passuum in circuitū tenuit.

Multiple Choice Questions

COMPREHENSION, GRAMMAR, AND SYNTAX

1. Trajan's family was
 - a. ancient
 - b. famous
 - c. from Italy
 - d. both b and c
2. Who or what is *Agrippinam* in line 3?
 - a. Trajan's mother
 - b. Trajan's wife
 - c. Trajan's daughter
 - d. a town
3. Who or what is *Galliis* in line 4?
 - a. Trajan's friend
 - b. a province
 - c. a king
 - d. a town
4. What kind of clause is *ut omnibus principibus merito praeferatur* in lines 4–5?
 - a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
5. *finēs* in line 7 is best translated as
 - a. ends
 - b. finishes
 - c. boundaries
 - d. goals
6. *late* in line 7 is
 - a. a noun
 - b. a verb
 - c. an adjective
 - d. an adverb

-
7. *Decibalo* in line 9 is
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. a dative of reference | b. a dative of possession |
| c. an ablative of means | d. an ablative absolute |
8. *Taifali*, *Victoali*, and *Tervingi* in line 10 are
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| a. kings | b. towns |
| c. generals | d. tribes |
9. According to Eutropius, how big in circumference was the province of Dacia?
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| a. 100 miles | b. 1,000 miles |
| c. 10,000 miles | d. 100,000 miles |

***Breviarium Historiae Romanae* 8.4**

Dē Traiānō Imperātōre II

4 Glōriam tamen mīlitārem cīvilitāte et moderātiōne superāvit,
 Rōmae et per prōvinciās aequālem sē omnibus exhibēns,
 amīcōs salūtandī causā frequentāns vel aegrōtantēs vel cum
 fēstōs diēs habuissent, convīvia cum īsdem indiscreta vicissim
 5 habēns, saepe in vehiculīs eōrum sedēns, nūllum senātōrum
 laedēns, nihil iniūstum ad augendum fiscum agēns, liberālis in
 cūctōs, pūblicē prīvātimque dītāns omnēs et honōribus
 augēns, quōs vel mediocrī familiāritāte cognōvisset, per orbem
 terrārum aedificāns multa, inmūnitātēs cīvitatibus tribuēns,
 10 nihil nōn tranquillū et placidū agēns, adeō ut omnī
 eius aetāte ūnus senātor damnātus sit atque is tamen per
 senātum ignōrante Traiānō. Ob haec per orbem terrārum deō
 proximus nihil nōn venerātiōnis meruit et vīvus et mortuus.

Multiple Choice Comprehension Questions

VERUM AUT FALSUM – TRAJAN'S CIVIC VIRTUES

1. _____ Trajan's military glory was greater than his political skill.
2. _____ Trajan acted the same in Rome as he did in the provinces.
3. _____ Trajan was often ill, but still made time to visit his friends.
4. _____ Trajan avoided dinner parties because they were scandalous.
5. _____ Trajan would often ride with his friends in their carts.
6. _____ Trajan rewarded even acquaintances with public offices.
7. _____ Trajan granted tax exemptions to certain cities.
8. _____ No senator was harmed under Trajan's rule.
9. _____ The senate once condemned a man without Trajan's knowledge.
10. _____ Trajan was thought of as almost godlike, both before and after his death.

Multiple Choice Questions

GRAMMAR, SYNTAX, AND RHETORIC

1. What is the syntax of *salutandi* in line 3?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. gerund c. present active participle | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. gerundiive d. future active participle |
|---|--|

2. What is the tense of *habuissent* in line 4?
 - a. present
 - b. perfect
 - c. imperfect
 - d. pluperfect
3. What use of the genitive is *senatorum* in line 5?
 - a. partitive genitive
 - b. genitive with verb of memory
 - c. genitive of description
 - d. genitive of possession
4. The gerund *augendum* in line 6 is used to express
 - a. cause
 - b. result
 - c. purpose
 - d. ownership
5. The best synonym for *cunctos* in line 7 would be
 - a. *amicos*
 - b. *homines*
 - c. *senatores*
 - d. *milites*
6. The case and number of *multa* in line 9 is
 - a. nominative singular
 - b. ablative singular
 - c. nominative plural
 - d. accusative plural
7. What kind of clause is *ut omni eius aetate unus senator damnatus sit* in lines 10–11?
 - a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
8. Why is *Traiano* in the ablative in line 12?
 - a. ablative of separation
 - b. ablative of comparison
 - c. ablative of means
 - d. ablative absolute
9. What use of the genitive is *venerationis* in line 13?
 - a. partitive genitive
 - b. genitive with verb of memory
 - c. genitive of description
 - d. genitive of possession
10. Which rhetorical device is represented by the phrase *nihil non venerationis* in line 13?
 - a. asyndeton
 - b. litotes
 - c. synchysis
 - d. synecdoche

Breviarium Historiae Romanae 8.5

Dē Morte Traiāni

5 Inter alia dicta hoc ipsius fertur ēgregium. Amicis enim
 culpantibus, quod nimium circā omnēs communis esset,
 respondit tālem sē imperātorem esse privātis, quālēs esse sibi
 imperātōrēs privātus optāsset. Post ingentem igitur glōriam
 belli domique quaesitam ē Persidē rediēns apud Seleuciam
 Isauriae profluvio ventris extinctus est. Obiit autem aetātis
 annō sexagēsimo tertiō, mēse nōnō, diē quārtō, imperiū nōnō
 decimō, mēse sextō, diē quīntō decimō. Inter Divōs relātus
 est sōlusque omnium intrā urbem sepultus est. Ossa conlāta
 10 in urnam auream in forō, quod aedificāvit, sub columnā posita
 sunt, cuius altitūdō CXLIV pedēs habet. Huius tantum
 memoriae delātum est, ut usque ad nostram aetātem nōn
 aliter in senātū principibus adclāmētur, nisi “Fēlicior Augustō,
 melior Traiānō.” Adeō in eō glōria bonitātis obtinuit, ut vel
 15 adstantibus vel vērē laudantibus occāsiōnem
 magnificentissimi praestet exempli.

Multiple Choice Questions

COMPREHENSION, GRAMMAR, SYNTAX, AND RHETORIC

1. Why did Trajan’s friends find fault with him?

a. because he is not as friendly as an emperor as he was as a private citizen c. because he is too familiar with ordinary people	b. because he is too generous to all the towns d. because he is not as generous to his own friends as to the common people
---	---

2. Trajan’s response to his friends’ concern is that

a. an emperor has different responsibilities than a private citizen c. he wishes emperors had been more friendly to him when he was a private citizen	b. he wishes emperors had been more generous to his town when he was a private citizen d. he wishes all emperors would be a generous to private citizens as they are to their friends
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3. How did Trajan die?

a. He died of diarrhea in Isauria. c. He was stabbed in the stomach by Isauria near Seleucia.	b. He drowned in the river Isauria near Seleucia. d. He died of overeating in Seleucia.
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4. How old was Trajan when he died?
- a. almost sixty-one
 - b. almost sixty-two
 - c. almost sixty-three
 - d. almost sixty-four
5. How long had Trajan been emperor?
- a. nine years
 - b. ten years
 - c. sixteen years
 - d. nineteen years
6. Which unique honor was Trajan awarded?
- a. He was made a god.
 - b. A city was named for him.
 - c. He received a tomb within the walls of Rome.
 - d. A magnificent temple was built for him.
7. What does Eutropius describe as 144 feet tall?
- a. the height of Trajan's temple
 - b. the height of Trajan's column
 - c. the height at which Trajan's urn was placed
 - d. the height of Trajan's forum
8. What kind of clause is *ut usque ad nostram aetatem non aliter in senatu principibus adclametur* in lines 12–13?
- a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question
9. Which rhetorical device is represented by the phrase *Felicio Augusto, melior Traiano* in lines 13–14?
- a. chiasmus
 - b. litotes
 - c. synchysis
 - d. synecdoche
10. What kind of clause is *ut vel adsentantibus vel vere laudantibus occasionem magnificentissimi praestet exempli* in lines 14–16?
- a. purpose clause
 - b. result clause
 - c. indirect command
 - d. indirect question