

Escape from Vesuvius

Name: _____

- 1 The author has used formal language to show the time and setting of this book. This has been done partly by avoiding the use of contractions. Rewrite the sentences below, changing the contracted words into their extended forms.

a I'll begin by telling you something about myself.

b My mother is the Lady Octavia Claudia, and I've a younger sister Lucia.

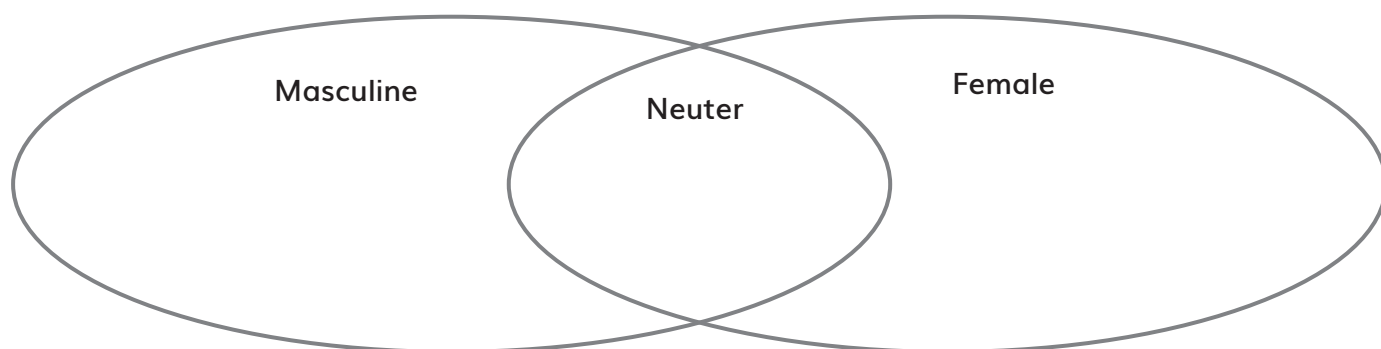
c He's fourteen, and an expert fisherman.

d I didn't feel the least bit calm myself.

e Why aren't they afraid?

- 2 In 79 AD, there were many differences between male and female roles. Read the following words carefully. Some are masculine (male), some are feminine (female) and some are neuter (they can be used for males or females). Sort the words into the Venn diagram below.

tutor merchant sister lady slave guest father fisherman horse
friend mother cook boar goose bronzesmith parent



- 3 The prologue to the story mentions that there were clues that Mount Vesuvius was about to erupt. Reread the text and find examples in the story that match the clues.

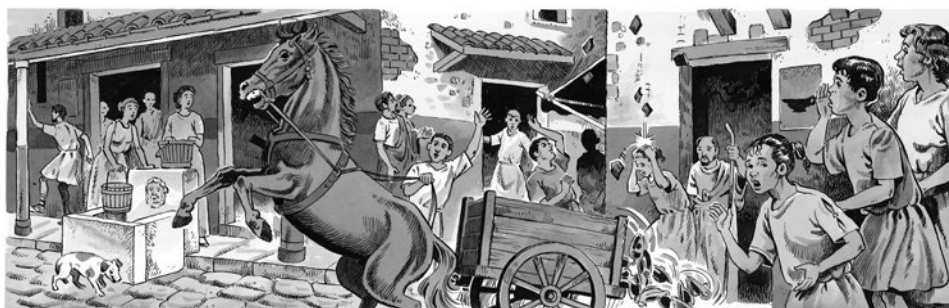
Earth tremors	Underground water sources dried up	Animals became nervous	Silt and ash began to cover Pompeii

Escape from Vesuvius

Name: _____

- 1 Dashes are used to join two parts of a sentence. The second part of the sentence usually contains a complex idea or reflects the writer's personal thoughts or views. Join the beginning and end of the sentences below with different coloured lines.

Sentence beginning	Sentence ending
It was a rare event	—and he is not the only one.
The horses, mules and oxen were skittish	—so rare that the citizens of Pompeii spent a great deal of time and money restoring the city to its former glory.
He seems nervous	—Helen and the other slaves, our relatives and friends.
But it isn't just a mountain	—even Cronus.
I thought about those we had left behind in Pompeii	—shying, and rolling their eyes.
I had never seen him cry, but he sobbed unashamedly as he embraced us all	—it's a volcano.



- 2 The author, Julie Mitchell, uses visual imagery to help the reader to picture the historical setting. Read the following paragraphs closely, then on a separate piece of paper, sketch the scene as accurately as possible. (You don't need to be a great artist – you just have to include everything that can be seen in the picture. Use a highlighter pen on the text below to show the things that you will need to include.)

At last we reached the Forum. I couldn't believe what I saw. Amid broken columns and fallen statues, people scrambled about, screaming as they sought shelter. Fires from overturned lamps lit the agonised faces of those who had been hit by chunks of solid rock. And beyond all this, Vesuvius, its summit open like a red mouth, had become a roaring cannon, sending a gigantic column of speckled fire into the sky. (page 23)

And finally, on the horizon, I saw the lights of Misenum. The beach was aglow with lanterns. When we reached the shallows, uniformed sailors ran towards us through the water. As they towed us in, I scanned the shore, hoping to spot Father. (page 26)