



TEACHER BY THE WAY

Line 2: The financial requirement to be a member of the equestrian class was 400,000 sesterces. If a person's worth fell below the amount of 400,000 sesterces, he lost his position in that order. 400,000 sesterces in 1957 was approximately \$28,000 and would be substantially larger today. The abbreviation for "sesterce" was IIS, which was later standardized to HS. When these numbers and the letter are superimposed on one another, the result is the American dollar sign, which, until recently, had two vertical lines under the letter S.

Lines 3–4: The phrase *in primis* is originally an ablative of place where and its literal translation is "in the first place(s); in the front line(s)."

Line 4 – *studiōsō litterārum*: If *studiōsō* is translated as "fond of," it is easier for the students to understand why *litterārum* is in the genitive case.

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Standards 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1



TEACHING TIP

The students may use the vocabulary supplied with the Atticus passage to answer the comprehension questions. Remind them that "yes" is *ita* and "no" is *minimē*.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

1. Ita, familia Atticī erat vetusta.
2. Atticus dignitātem equestrem habēbat.
3. Ita, maiōrēs Atticī dignitātem equestrem habēbant.
4. Pater Atticī erat diligēns et dives.
5. Fuit dives, ut erant tempora.
6. Pater Atticī in primis erat studiōsus litterārum.
7. Ita, pater Atticī cupīvit filium litteris ērudiri.
8. Ipse pater valdē litterās amābat.

TRANSLATION OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE LATIN CONVERSATION

Mark: My father also really likes literature. So he wanted me to be educated in Latin literature.

Mary: I thought your father was an astronaut.

Mark: This is true. Only educated people can be astronauts. Let's be diligent!

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