



THE ROMANS

6. GROWING UP IN ANCIENT ROME

JULIA: There was a big difference between how girls and boys were expected to behave in ancient Rome and the kinds of jobs they had to do as they were growing up. Let's follow Felix and his sister, Augusta, to see what day-to-day life was like.

FELIX: GALLIO! Have you seen my tabula?

GALLIO: You mean this?

FELIX: Oh...er...yeah. Augusta, are you finished yet?!

AUGUSTA: Which one? There's two of us, remember!

JULIA: Augusta is named after her father, Augustus. All girls were named after their father in this way, which made it difficult when there were sisters.

FELIX: I mean, Augusta Minor!! Y'know, the younger one.

AUGUSTA: Coming!

FELIX: I'm in a hurry! My tutor, the grammaticus, doesn't like it when I'm late.

AUGUSTA: Mum, can I go to the market now? I've finished weaving.

MUM: Yes, but take Gallio with you.

AUGUSTA: Great, thanks!

FELIX: Come on, Gallio, we haven't got all day.

GALLIO: I'm right behind you.

AUGUSTA: It's so hot!

FELIX: Yeah, it's lucky we live right on the bottom floor of the insulae. Imagine having to take water right to the top floor.

AUGUSTA: Yeah, and it's really cramped up there too!

AUGUSTA: I'm like, sooo sick of weaving. Look at the state of my hands.



FELIX: It's what girls do, Augusta. Anyway, we'll always need more cloth, just look at the state of this tunic.

AUGUSTA: Well, you can try weaving then! No thanks! But perhaps Gallio could learn to weave?

GALLIO: I think it's best left to the experts...

JULIA: In case you're wondering, Gallio is a slave. It was very common for families to have slaves to do work for them like cleaning or serving food. A few were even allowed to manage some of the family's money, like Gallio, but most were treated very badly.

AUGUSTA: You're so lucky being allowed to go to school.

FELIX: Dad can't afford for us both to go.

AUGUSTA: Tell me about it! Claudia has her own tutor. I want to learn rhetoric so I can speak in the senate.

FELIX: Augusta, women aren't allowed in the senate, you know that!

AUGUSTA: Well, maybe they just need persuading.

FELIX: I hate the public speaking, it's so embarrassing. But I like Greek and Latin, and I love geometry.

TUTOR: That will never work.

FELIX: I like the games we play at school too, like follis! That can be fun...most of the time.

AUGUSTA: I prefer board games like tali - or ludus latrunculi.

AUGUSTA: Here we are! Now, Gallio, we need cheese, pepper, figs, and can you remind me to get some garum?

GALLIO: Yes, madam.

JULIA: Garum is made from fish guts, and ancient Romans used it like we use ketchup today. Urgh, yuck!

FELIX: I'm hungry.

AUGUSTA: But you just had breakfast!



FELIX: Oooh the thermopolia!

STALLHOLDER: What can I offer you? Figs?

FELIX: Urgh.

STALLHOLDER: Sea urchins? Dormouse!

FELIX: Ooh, yes please!

JULIA: Mmm. Smells delicious. The thermopolia served hot food to take away. You could say the Romans invented 'fast food'!

FELIX: Oh, hi, Maximus!

MAXIMUS: Hi, Felix!

FELIX: This is my sister, Augusta.

AUGUSTA: Hi...er...Maximus. Um...nice toga.

MAXIMUS: Er...thanks. Yeah, my sister made it. I got it when I graduated from school. It's...um...kinda awkward though.

FELIX: Maximus wants to be in the Senate, but I want to be a centurion so I can fight the Gauls!

GRAMMATICUS: FELIX!

FELIX: Oh no, it's the grammaticus! I'd better go!

GALLIO: Well, I'll go and get the garum. I'll let you two get to know each other!

MAXIMUS: Err...so...er, Augusta, eh? That's a pretty name.

AUGUSTA: UGHHHH.