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MY FAMILY AND OTHER ROMANS

Marie Basting

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does LARP stand for? • Can you infer how Livi feels about LARP? • What is Rome Play? 	Make a note of the words in bold at the start of each chapter. Write down what you can infer about what they mean.	HISTORY • Research Hadrian's wall. Find out the reason it was built, when it was built, how long it was and what it was made of.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Livi's heart sink when they get to the site? • What brings a LARP site to life in Livi's experience? • Why does Livi think they are doomed? Support your answer from the text. • What has Kenzo sacrificed to be part of Rome Play? 	Create a character profile for Dad.	DRAMA/D&T • Make a plan for a LARP site, thinking about what you will for the type of event you are planning. Think about the different areas your site will need and what visitors to your site will need.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it easy to imagine what life would have been like in the fort 2000 years ago? • Why does Dad suggest a bit of battle training to Livi? • Why isn't Livi excited about her Dad's crush on Chitra? 	Create a PR plan for Rome Play. Bearing in mind Livi announces nobody does Facebook anymore, how would you spread the word?	ENGLISH • Create the text for your social media posts promoting Rome Play, or write a script for your promotion videos.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise Livi's reflections about LARP following the Battle of the Orcs. • Livi loves archery - why does she refuse to have a shoot-out with Dad before tea? • How does he get her to change her mind? 	Write a diary entry of Livi's day so far. Think about the highlights and if there are any low points or worries.	MATHS • Create a budget for the LARP event you have planned for. How many tickets would you need to sell to make a profit? Research sponsorship



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can you infer about Rory Smartwart from Tara's response to him? 		opportunities and how this might affect your budget.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do Rory Smartwart's views about role play affect Livi at school? How does Dad try to cheer Livi up? Can you list some of his suggestions? How does Dad react to Livi asking him if he knows people laugh at them? 	Make some predictions about what happens in the next in the story.	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why Livi wakes up to the sound of the smoke alarm? Do you think Livi is concerned by the situation? Support your answer from the text. Why does Mrs Burden think Livi is up to something? List some of the methods Livi tries to turn off the TV. 		<p>GEOGRAPHY • Mrs Burden predicts rain is coming. Can you research some tools used to predict the weather?</p> <p>ENGLISH • Find out what the <i>Aeneid</i> is – the hero, where they are from and what their mission is.</p>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Livi go over to Mrs Burden's? Can you explain why Mrs Burden doesn't give Livi one of her famous respect lectures? Why doesn't Mrs Burden help Livi with the TV? 	Make an emotion map of how Livi might be feeling based on the events of this chapter and the one before it.	<p>HISTORY • Research the Fates and who they were in Roman mythology.</p> <p>ART • Create a poster of the Fates.</p>



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8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Livi worrying about at the start of this chapter? Pick out some of the descriptive language the author uses to describe the outdoor setting. What emotions do you think Livi experiences in this chapter? Why does Livi follow the boy? 	Create a weather report for the evening taking care to include visibility conditions, temperature and wind speed.	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Livi have to pick up her pace? Why does she force herself to stop thinking about cows? How does the author make the chase more terrifying? Why do you think Livi is surprised by the arch? 	Write a character profile for Livi based on events so far.	HISTORY • Research the role of arches in Roman architecture. Can you make a list the types of structures they were used for?
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Livi think when she first goes through the arch? What makes her question her assumptions? Make a list. What does 'luminous' mean? 	Make a diary entry detailing Livi's observations so far.	DRAMA • Livi tries to use some safe words and rules but is ignored. Come up with some standard LARP rules.
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does 'vagabond' mean? What is different about Mrs Burden now? Who is Mrs Burden revealed to be? And how does Livi know it's through. Why has Mrs Burden been 'sent to the sticks', as she calls Once Brewed? 	<p>Turn this chapter into a playscript.</p> <p>Research and write a profile of a Caligula.</p>	HISTORY • Make a list of Roman gods, including their responsibilities, powers and role in the world, plus any other important information.



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12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes Livi decide to go with Felix for some honey cake? What can you infer about Felix's mum? What do you think Felix means by 'we're not supposed to mention any of that stuff'? 		ART • Draw/design a Roman temple. Research key features (design and materials) of Roman architecture to include.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does the artwork in the temple suggest to Livi about Felix's mum? What can you infer from the priests' reaction to Livi? What do you think Felix is hiding? Do you think Mrs Burden's advice about trusting her gut helps Livi make a firm decision? 	Write a character profile for Livi based on events so far.	ART • Create a poster advertising activity at the temple. Think about the images to accompany the text in the poster.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick out some details used by the author to show how Rome is different from all the reconstructions Livi has seen. How does the author use language to achieve this? Who are 'the stolen' and why is Livi not all right? What is a 'plebian'? Why do you think Felix goes from worry to surprise to elation in a few seconds? 	Write a character profile for Bellona. Check this against the list of Roman gods and include any differences you have noticed in the text.	HISTORY/TECHNOLOGY • Find out about and make a list of methods of transportation in ancient Rome. Compare them with modern methods. Are there any similarities?
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why Livi backs away from Bellona's chariot. Do you think Livi believes Bellona is her mum? 	Add to Livi's emotion map.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Livi get angry with Bellona? • Why does she decide to get back in the chariot? 		
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does Bellona take Livi and Felix to in her chariot? • Are there only soldiers at the camp? • Livi is eager to set off to rescue her Dad. What task does she have to complete first? • How does Livi respond to seeing her brothers, Romulus and Remus? 	<p>Research and write a story about the founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus.</p>	<p>D&T • Make a plan/model of Bellona's camp including all the details from the text. What material can you use?</p>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you infer about the relationship between the twins and Felix? • What does 'hallucination' mean? • What does Remus say to convince her to have some food? • There is a lot of activity in the camp. What does it suggest to Livi? 	<p>Write a letter home from one of the soldiers describing life in general at the camp, as well as the morning's events.</p>	<p>HISTORY • Research Roman military camps. Find out how large they were, and what support (food, shelter, animals, etc.) they needed. What activities typically took place in them?</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Livi called 'the Undecided'? What else does Athene Noctua tell her about herself? • What is an apparition? • Athene Noctua insists she's there to guide Livi and tries to explain the sybil's prophecy. Does she succeed? 	<p>Write a prophecy for Livi. Think about the details you might include - e.g. her birth, the sacred arrow, the threat from Vulcan.</p>	



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19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Livi sceptical about the prophecy? • Who is Poly? • Livi imagines Bellona watching her from afar – how do you think this makes her feel? 	<p>Romulus tells Livi ‘the Fates determine our destiny’ in response to Livi calling the prophecy silly. Debate this topic as a class. Write your points for either Livi’s or Romulus’s viewpoint.</p>	<p>PHILOSOPHY • What do you think about Romulus’s statement of ‘the Fates determine our destiny’? Consider if destiny can work well with choice.</p>
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Romulus’s snake hair unsettled when they approach the stallion, Titus? • How does Livi surprise Romulus? • Why does Poly suddenly get upset? 	<p>Write a letter from Livi to her dad telling him about her time in Ancient Rome and her newly-discovered talent.</p>	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livi feels a wave of sadness. What brings this on? • Tiber comes to camp with some important information. How does this change things? • What is the price on Livi’s head? • Despite her annoyance, why does Livi agree to the plan? 	<p>Livi and her newly-discovered family are on the brink of battle with Vulcan. Write a newspaper article making the argument to the citizens of Romana in favour of conflict. From the details in the text, think about what you can emphasize and what details you can play down.</p>	<p>HISTORY/MYTHOLOGY • What is nectar in Greek and Roman mythology? Why is it important?</p>



Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

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22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why does Livi compare Bellona to Narcissus?• Bellona appears to be happy. What is the effect on her mood on Livi?• What do you think 'tersorium' means?• Why does Athene Noctua decide to appear to Livi when she's in the loo?• Underline key words or phrases in the text that tells you how Athene Noctua tries to guide Livi into making a decision.	Livi is a guest on a LARP podcast. Write a script for her about life in Ancient Rome and which details might help make events more authentic.	ART • Draw/create your own version of the mosaic Bellona commissions of her family. Consider the background, colour palette and materials (if creating a mosaic).
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why does the guard Bellona passes her trumpet to seem familiar? Why have soldiers given him a nickname, and what is it?• Bellona's mood prompts some soul searching from Livi.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does Bellona respond?• Do you think it works?	Write this scene from Bellona's viewpoint.	
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick out some of the language the author uses to describe the weather conditions.• A griffin attacks just as they set off. Why does Romulus warn Livi not to look back?• As the griffin gives chase, Livi is scared the fence is too high for them to jump. What reassures her?	Create a fact book about mythological creatures with the griffin as your first entry. Think about their physical features, their powers, how they are used in art and the legends around them.	GEOGRAPHY • What is a volcanic plateau? Research the different types. Can you name two famous volcanic plateaus?



Chapter

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- Do you think Livi's LARP skills help her fight off the griffin?
- Does she make it into the forest unharmed?
- Titus continues single-mindedly after they lose the griffin. What stops him in his tracks?
- The ride is physically challenging for Livi. Use the text to make a list of physical challenges she experiences.

Add to your emotion map for Livi. Does she experience new emotions following her encounter with the griffin?

P. E. • Create a training routine for Livi's mission. Consider the physical skills she might need.

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- Livi is sure that she and Titus are toast, but Vulcan's dragons guide them into his camp.
 - What does she notice that makes her recall Athene Noctua's advice?
 - How is it different from Bellona's camp?
- Highlight some of the descriptive language the author uses to set the scene.
- Can you describe how she uses the weather and what effect that has on the text?

Write a journal entry recording Livi's mission so far. What are the highlights?

GEOGRAPHY • Draw a map showing Bellona's camp, the forest, and Vulcan's camp. Think of how you will represent the vegetation and the topographical features of the area.

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- Describe Vulcan.
- What does Livi realize about:
 - the situation and Vulcan's plans?
 - herself when she thinks about how Titus chose her?
- Why does Vulcan declare Livi is immortal? What does she make of it?
- Can you make a list of the items that seem out of place in

Write a newspaper editorial making the case for pacifism. What are the advantages? What are the challenges? Do you think it's worth pursuing

GEOGRAPHY • What is a volcanic plateau? Research the different types. Can you name two famous volcanic plateaus?



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	<p>Romana?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a pacifist? • Vulcan says, '<i>... I was really hoping you'd have worked it out for yourself</i>'. What is he referring to? 		
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you infer about Livi's emotions when she works out the posters come from the Temple of Bellona? • Why was LARPing invented? • What does 'spawning' mean? What can you infer about Bellona's demigod children from it? • What stops Livi from leaving Vulcan's cave? 	Write this scene from Vulcan's viewpoint.	<p>HISTORY • Research the Roman empire – how did it start, how big was it at its height how did it fall? What is the legacy of the Roman empire in modern life? Think about language, art and architecture, infrastructure, etc. Are there any other interesting details you should include?</p>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athene Noctua reveals Bellona's strategy for winning the war. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is it? • What will happen if she is not stopped? • Where is Livi running off to? • How does Vulcan help Livi? • What is special about Lupa? • Describe the sacred arrow. How does it work? 	<p><i>'You want me to shoot my own mother?'</i></p> <p>Livi has a big decision to make – write a journal entry exploring the consequences of each choice open to her.</p>	



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30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livi catches sight of Harry Styles’s fans queuing. What thought does this prompt? Why does Livi get frustrated with Kenzo and the LARPer’s? What does Mrs Burden mean when she says, <i>‘they’re mortals, not babies’</i>? 	Predict what might happen next in the story.	
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Mrs Burden mean by ‘now would be a good time to fulfil your destiny, lass’? How is Livi helped by the LARPer’s? What does Livi try to get Bellona to understand? How do Livi’s siblings feel about the impending confrontation? Support your answer from the text. 	Turn the events of this chapter to a playscript.	DRAMA • Design a set for the final confrontation. Think about how you will represent the old fort and the surrounding countryside.
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Bellona try to get Mrs Burden (Coventina) to her side? Why does Bellona restrain Romulus and Remus? What happens when the pink sparkly helicopter arrives? 	<p>Add to the playscript from the previous chapter.</p> <p>Predict what happens next in the story.</p>	DRAMA • Consider the kind of music you’d use in your play. Think about the types of instruments that would fit a battle scene.
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Mrs Burden protect Livi and the LARPer’s? It’s pudding club that afternoon. How does that affect the battle? Why does Felix intervene? How does that affect Bellona’s troops? 		MYTHOLOGY • What is Scylla famous for?



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34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felix reveals his special talent. Does his full name give a clue about his talent? What is it? Make a list of everything Felix does to defy Bellona. Why does Bellona concede the battle but not the war to Livi? 	Write this chapter from Felix's point-of-view.	
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What bargain does Athene Noctua make with Bellona in exchange for her human form? Why is the sack Athene Noctua retrieves from the chariot important? Are Livi's parents happy to see each other? Support your answer from the text. How does Athene Noctua get the upper hand in the conflict? 	Make an entry in Livi's journal about how she feels about seeing her parents together. Does this match what she imagined it would be like?	ART • Draw Athene Noctua in human form. Consider how you can the transformation clear.
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livi and Kenzo's plan is revealed. Does it have the intended effect? How does Livi retrieve the sacred arrow from Athene Noctua? Why does Kenzo go after Bellona? How does Dad help Livi follow through on her decision? 		MUSIC • Make a playlist to help defeat an army. Give a reason how each choice supports your goals.



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37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think darkness falls when Livi shoots the sacred arrow? • What does the light signify? • What has happened to Bellona? 	<p>Write a story about the birth and rebirth of the Roman goddess Bellona. Include details of her siblings and think about how they are given their powers.</p>	
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the next LARP event going to be about? • Who is everyone surprised but delighted to see at the celebration? • What can you infer from Rory Smartwart turning up with his dad? • Is Livi worried about talking to him? 	<p>Write a podcast episode where Livi is interviewed about the events of the last few days. What would you include? Think about how you would explain some of the events.</p>	<p>D&T • Design your costume for your LARP event. What materials will you use? What props will you need?</p>
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think Livi decides not to drink the nectar? • Why does she think everything that happened in Romana is worth it? • What is Romulus really enjoying in Once Brewed? • Do you think Harry Styles is having fun? 	<p>Compare your predictions from earlier – were any right?</p> <p>Write a book review including your own your thoughts about the story and its themes, and why others should read it. What would you change?</p>	<p>ART • After reading the book, decide what elements you'd like to highlight and design an alternative cover.</p>

