

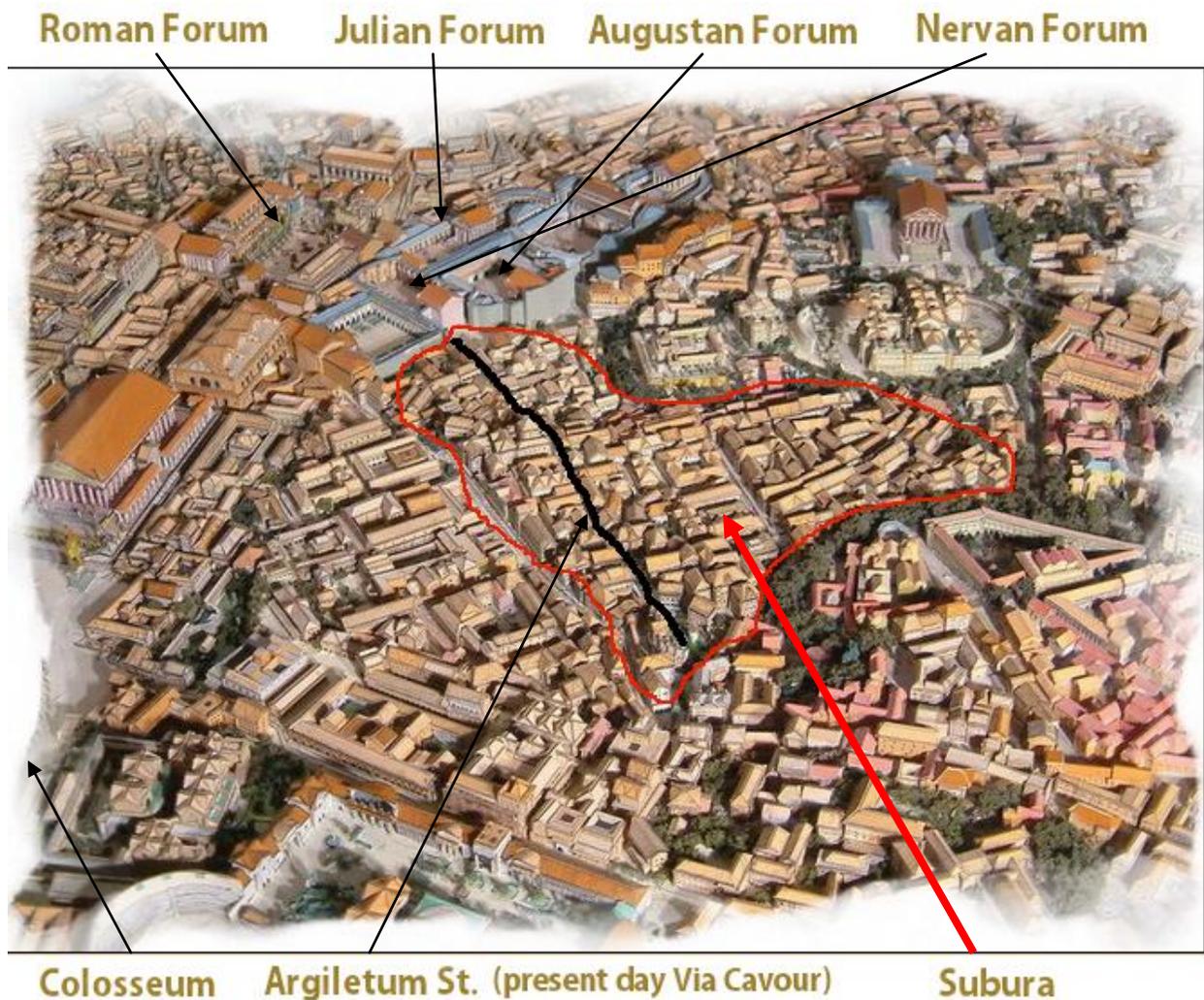
Authors, Readers, and Listeners

1. If a writer had a positive reception of his work at a "recitatio", what would he do next?

He might have copies made by educated slaves (**librārii**) belonging to his patron to hand out to his friends or send his book to a bookseller (**bibliopōla**) who would make copies for sale to the public.

2. Where were most booksellers located in Rome?

On the "Argiletum", a street between the Roman Forum and the Subura.



3. How much did a book cost and who got the money?

Books cost from 5 sesterces for a cheap copy and up to 20 sesterces for a deluxe edition. All monies went to the bookseller.

4. If an author made no money on his books, how did he make a living?

Some writers were wealthy and wrote as a hobby while others depended on their patrons support to whom they could offer the "dignitās" of having supported a great writer.

5. Who were some authors who patron was the emperor?

Vergil and **Horace**, through the emperor's friend "Maecenas", and **Ovid**.



Vergil



Horace



Ovid

6. What happened to Ovid due to his writing?

Ovid was exiled from Rome for the rest of his life because of writing the "Ars Amatoria" a book about the love affairs of young people (a sort of "how to help book) which the emperor disapproved of and because he may have made an unfortunate comment about or alluded to a scandal in the emperor's family.

7. What poet regularly made flattering comments in his poems to escape the fate of Ovid?

Martial.

8. Who read most books?

Some authors, such as the playwright Plautus (A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Form) reached a wide audience, but most authors wrote for a small highly educated class of Romans.

9. Who was "Quintilian"?

A famous educator and orator (he taught the Emperor Domitian's sons and Pliny the Younger). He was the first educator to receive a salary from the state. His most famous book was "The Education of an Orator".

10. What is the most important difference between Latin and modern literature?

Modern literature is written for reading but Latin literature was usually written to read aloud.

1. Authors had to read their books to audiences to publicize their work.
2. Romans were also extensively trained in public speaking which affected the way they wrote.
3. When a Roman read a book he read it aloud, even when he was reading to himself.

11. Who was amazed when he saw someone reading a book silently?

Saint Augustine.

12. How did the fact that Romans read aloud affect the way they wrote?

A writer would craft his sentences to have the greatest affect when spoken aloud. This might be accomplished by putting the most emotive word first in a sentence or juxtaposing words to create alliteration or the author might dramatically speak directly to a character as if he were present.



*****This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.*****