

Reading Questions: Prompt Sheet

Romulus and Remus

Reading Questions and Answers

Before reading: What has happened in the story so far?

- Numitor, King of Alba Longa in ancient Italy, and his sons were killed by his brother, Amulius. Numitor's daughter, Rhea Silvia, who had been forced to become a Vestal Virgin, fell in love with Mars, the God of War. She had twin boys, whom Amulius ordered to be killed. Instead, a servant placed them in a basket in the river. A she-wolf found the basket and pulled the twins to safety and later, a shepherd raised the boys. Much later, one of the boys, Remus, was kidnapped by Amulius' men. When Romulus went to rescue his brother, he killed Amulius.

Page 10: Why did Romulus and Remus turn down the crown of Alba Longa?

- They turned down the crown of Alba Longa because they wanted to have their own city.

Where did Romulus want to build the city?

- Romulus wanted to build the city on Palatine Hill.

Where did Remus want to build the city?

- Remus wanted to build the city on Avetine Hill.

Page 11: How did Romulus and Remus decide they would choose where to build their city?

- They decided they would choose where to build their city by waiting for a sign from the God Augury.

How many vultures did each brother claim to have seen? Do you think they really did see these vultures? Why or why not?

- Remus said he saw six vultures and Romulus said he saw twelve. Other example answers could include that they don't think the brothers saw the vultures but were exaggerating so they could get the city where they wanted it.

How do you think the brothers are feeling at this point? Why do you think this?

- Example answers could include: angry, frustrated, betrayed, furious. Reasons include the fact that they have overcome so many challenges yet now they can't even agree on where to build their city. Maybe they should have accepted the throne of Alba Longa because the city was already built.

What do you think will happen between the brothers next? Use what has already happened in the story to explain your answer.

Children should reference the fact that Romulus has already killed someone in a fight and that the brothers are the sons of Mars, the God of War. Alternatively, they could reference that they are twins and have been through many ordeals together. Remus is referred to as Romulus' 'beloved' brother so the twins may solve their problems.

Deeper Reading

Which word tells us what kind of person Romulus is and how he feels about his brother now?

- The text says that Romulus 'ignored' Remus, which suggests that Remus isn't important to Romulus.

Why do you think Remus is 'jealous' of Romulus?

- Remus might be jealous of Romulus because Romulus managed to avoid capture from Amulius' men and Remus had to be rescued by Romulus.

Does it surprise you that the brothers have started to fight? Why or why not?

- Children could say that it doesn't surprise them and reference Romulus' temper from when Remus was kidnapped and that he killed Amulius. They could also mention that the brothers are the sons of Mars, the God of War, so they might have inherited a love of fighting.
- Children could also say they are surprised because Romulus and Remus are twins so they should be close. They could refer to the ordeals they have overcome together and that Remus is Romulus' 'beloved' brother.

