

LI: I can identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these. I can discuss writing similar to that which I am planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.

Fishbourne Roman Palace
Chichester
Sussex

Dear Mum,

I have had a very strange experience recently and I think it is important to tell you although I have no idea how, or if, I will be able to get this letter to you. Earlier, when I left you to find my St. Christopher, there was a strange hissing sound at the dolphin mosaic in the museum. I felt a little odd and looked down to notice the flooring had changed to black and white shiny tiles. Unbelievably, a girl suddenly appeared behind me, who I thought was in fancy dress, because she was wearing a long, pale dress and sandals. However, when I asked who she was, she told me she lived there and that it wasn't a museum, but a Palace owned by her father! By now, I was feeling very confused and then got even more of a shock when I looked down to notice my clothes had changed - I was wearing some type of loose tunic, held in place by a belt, and sandals on my feet.

I decided to ask this girl what her name was as she didn't seem a threat - her name was Sallustia Lucilla which I thought was peculiar. But even more peculiar was that she told me her sisters all shared the same first name! Straight away, I decided to call her Lucy. Much easier to pronounce! I started to tell her about losing my St. Christopher so she showed me her 'bullae.' This was a golden medallion on a leather thong which hung around her neck.

After this, Lucy told me we would have to sneakily hide because no one should see me! We headed for the gardens, but Lucy stopped me in my tracks; apparently children aren't allowed in the formal gardens which I found very unusual. At that moment, I noticed the Palace's low buildings with red-tiled roofs and elaborate colonnades over the other side of the garden. Then it hit me, Mum. I had time travelled to Ancient Rome - it looked too much like the museum's computer simulation for me not to! Dad would have been so impressed. The next thing I saw were the baths! These looked like a swimming pool which Lucy told me are used at different times of day for males and females! Subsequently, Lucy pointed out all their dozen striking horses sunning themselves in the stables and casually told me that her family has over 150 slaves! Can you believe that, how can there be that much to do to need 150 slaves?

Even though this was all very exciting so far, Lucy then informed me that I would have to pretend I was someone else, so I didn't get caught. She suggested another name and it sounded very fancy - Titus Horatius Iovinus - and she told me to pretend to be her adopted cousin, simply because his family were arriving later that day. Once we agreed my 'new name,' Lucy told me the oddest thing of all, that I was talking fluent Latin! You know how hard I find learning my French every week and here I am fluently speaking another language.

During the final part of the afternoon, I met Joe's Mother, I was so nervous.. She seemed very different to you and was stood proudly by the eastern colonnade wearing the same formal dress as Lucy. Thankfully, she believed I was a cousin, probably because I kept quiet, so she thought I was mute! The afternoon finished with dinner luckily as I was famished! Sat at low tables on cushions, we were presented with the most sumptuous meal - small, appetising quails' eggs, crunchy snails, spicy chicken on a bed of green salad, and pink, poached fish, all served on silver platters! This was followed by cheese and fruit. We finally returned to the part of the Palace with the black and white flooring where I would wait to return to you. So far, nothing has happened. I really miss you and even miss Sam

Hopefully see you later Mum!

Love from
Joe xx