

A Father's Choice

Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____/20

Directions: As you read, **highlight answers in text** to the ?s. Then answer the questions on the right.

Rome began as a group of villages on the Tiber River. Sometime in the 8th century BC, these villages became a town ~ Rome! It was first ruled by Etruscan kings. But the Latins rebelled & freed themselves. The story below tells of an incident in this war of freedom. Which value did Brutus place higher; loyalty to his city-state or protection of his children?

The young men were tied to wooden poles. Their clothes were ripped off, & they were beaten with sticks. But the worst was still to come! For these young men were traitors to Rome. Their final punishment would be death.

All of these young men came from rich & noble families. Two of them were sons of Junius Brutus, the Roman **consul** (elected government leader)!!! Brutus had the power to pardon these traitors. But would he do it? Or would he let his own sons die as an example to others? The Roman crowd watched Brutus closely. They knew how much he was suffering, & they pitied him!

What was Brutus thinking at this moment? Did he think of Tarquin the Proud, the former king of Rome? Brutus hated all that Tarquin had stood for. Tarquin was an Etruscan. Although most of the Etruscan leaders of Rome had been fair, Tarquin was not.

Brutus hated Tarquin for his cruel, 1-man rule. Tarquin did not ask the Roman Senate for its advice. Tarquin made war or peace without asking these Roman leaders for their opinions. He had put some Roman senators to death & had taken the property of others. As a crowning insult, Tarquin's son had raped Lucretia, a virtuous (honorable) Roman wife.

Finally, in 509 BC, Brutus swore he would get rid of Tarquin. He stirred up a revolt. The angry people drove Tarquin & his sons out of Rome. Then the people elected Brutus & another man **consuls**. They jointly ran daily affairs of the government & military so neither could have more power.

Rome became a **republic**. It would have NO more kings!

Applying geography skills: Rome was founded on the (Romulus / Rhine / Tiber ← circle 1) River.



A **traitor** is _____.

- a. 1 who trades favors with another
 b. 1 who goes against or betrays their country
 c. 1 who exchanges goods for another
 d. 1 who trades or steals goods

A **consul** is defined as an _____.

Making Predictions: Which value **would** Brutus place higher? (Loyalty or protection ← circle 1)



Synthesizing information: What had Tarquin done that caused Brutus to hate him?

- 1) _____
 2) _____

(There are many answers to this, simply write 2.)



Making Inferences: Why would Rome have 2 consuls elected to run the country instead of 1?

Applying past knowledge: What is a **republic**?

But Tarquin did not give up easily. He knew that many young nobles did not like the republic. Under the king, they had received special treatment. If they broke a law, the king often forgave them. But in the republic, the law treated rich & poor *as equals*.

So, Tarquin sent agents to some of these young nobles in Rome. And they *promised* to help Tarquin become king again. Two of them were the sons of Brutus! But the young nobles made a bad mistake! They wrote letters to Tarquin saying they would hand over Rome to him. A slave found these letters & showed them to Brutus. Brutus arrested all the young nobles & put them in prison. Later they were sentenced to die as traitors!

Brutus was in charge of carrying out the sentence. When the day came, everyone watched him. Would he let his *OWN* sons die?

Most likely, Brutus wished to forgive them, but his duty was to punish traitors. He hid his own suffering & anguish...& did not blink while *ALL* the traitors were beheaded!

Was Brutus a cruel man? *Perhaps*. But the early Romans had to be tough. The small **city-state** was fighting for its life against enemies who were all around the area. The early Romans were farmers who worked hard & lived simple (Spartan) lives. But when Rome was attacked they quickly left their farms & became soldiers. They had courage & a strong sense of duty!

Romans learned the importance of duty & loyalty as children at home. In the Roman family, the father had complete power! His wife & children had to obey him in everything! He arranged the marriages of his sons as well as his daughters. And he controlled all their property. He had the right to kill a child who did not obey him & had the right to sell a child into slavery.

Roman fathers did *not* use these powers often. But it was enough that they had them. Roman children learned early to obey & respect their fathers. Later, their fathers taught them to have the same *obedience & respect* for Rome.

Making inferences: How did Roman life under Etruscan kings **DIFFER FROM** life under the rules of a republic? **Give 1 example for each!**



How had Brutus' sons betrayed him?

- a. they became consuls
- b. they agreed to be Roman agents
- c. they agreed to help Tarquin become king
- d. they became king!

Word of Warning: "Never write *ANYTHING* down on paper that you don't want *EVERYONE* to see!" **You might consider this to be a ____.**

- a. lesson learned
- b. moral to the story
- c. myth
- d. both a & b

Making predictions: **What** do you think Brutus **will choose to do with his sons?** _____

Facing the consequences: **All the traitors** of Rome **were (released / beheaded / shot** ← circle 1).

Applying past knowledge: The Greek word for **city-state** was _____.

- a. agora
- b. polis
- c. consul
- d. capital

Applying past vocabulary to present studies: Another word for "lived simple" was _____.
(Think Sparta.)

Describe the complete "power" of a father:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

(There are more than 3. Choose any that impress you.)

What 2 things did children learn from their father **that also applied to** their country?

