

- Comedy
- **Plautus:** Titus Maccius Plautus. Prominent in the 3rd century BC, little is known about his life. Many of his plays are adapted from old Greek comedies, and he is regarded as the height of Latin comedy.
 - **Menaechmi:** A man searches for his long-lost twin brother, both named Menaechmus. When he arrives in the city of Epidamnus where his brother lives, comedy ensues as each is mistaken for the other.
 - **Mostellaria:** In his father's absence, Philolaches has a series of large parties. When the father returns unexpectedly, the clever slave **Tranio** tries to keep the master from discovering his son's indiscretions by claiming the noises he is hearing from the house are from ghosts haunting it.
 - **Aulularia:** The paranoid Euclio discovers a pot of gold, and tries to protect it from theft. He arranges a marriage for his daughter Phaedria, whom he doesn't realize is pregnant by Lyconides, the nephew of the suitor. A slave of Lyconides steals the pot of gold, but Euclio recovers it and ultimately gives it to his daughter with his approval for her to marry Lyconides.
 - **Captivi:** A master and slave are captured, with the captors planning to ransom the master. The two switch places, with the master pretending to be the slave. Since the master is far more valuable for ransom, the less important slave (the disguised master) is able to escape. Ultimately, the real master is able to rescue his loyal slave.
 - **Rudens:** After a shipwreck, the girl Pelaestra is reunited with her father Daemones after fishermen discover a rope attached to a treasure chest from the shipwreck which confirms Pelaestra as Daemones' daughter
 - **Miles Gloriosus:** the arrogant soldier Pyrgopolynices is deceived by his slave Pelaestrio, who arranges for another of the soldier's slaves to be reunited with her boyfriend, the slave's former master
- **Terence:** Publius Terentius Afer. Terence has served as a slave to a Roman senator, who was sufficiently impressed by his talents to release him. After this, He published six comedies.
 - **Adelphoi:** A man sends one of his two sons to be raised by his brother. The two children are raised in very different households, one very strict and one very permissive, and the brothers argue over who did the better job raising each boy.
 - **Andria:** Crito of Andros helps to settle the marriage of Pamphilus, whose father has arranged a marriage for him though he loves another woman.
 - **Eunuchus:** Phaedria sends a eunuch to guard over his girlfriend Thais, but the place of the eunuch is taken by a soldier who is in love with Thais.
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- History
 - **Livy:** Titus Livius. Born in Padua, Italy, around 59 BC. Over the course of his life, he published his great history in installments, gaining great renown for his work.
 - **Ab Urbe Condita:** From the founding of the city, a 142 book history of Rome, beginning with its foundation in 753 BC and continuing to 9 BC, ending with the death of Drusus.
 - **Caesar:** Gaius Julius Caesar. A great general and politician, Caesar is also known for his historical writing, particularly regarding his conquests.
 - **De Bello Gallico:** An 8 book account of Caesar's campaign in Gaul, with each book corresponding to one year of war. The final book was written not by Caesar, but by a man named Aulus Hirtius

- De Analogia: a lost work on grammar dedicated to Cicero
- **Sallust:** Gaius Sallustius Crispus. Born at Amiternum and writing during the early to mid first century BC. As a plebeian tribune, he was in favor of prosecution of Milo following his famous conflict with Clodius. Later, he would serve as praetor to Julius Caesar's army in Africa. Sallust would later publish several historical treatises.
 - Bellum Iugurthinum: An account of the conflict with Jugurtha in Numidia in the last decade of the 2nd century BC
 - Catilinarian Conspiracy (Bellum Catalinae): An account of the conspiracy of the senator Catiline against Rome, exposed by Cicero.
- **Tacitus:** Gaius Cornelius Tacitus
 - Historiae: the history of the year of four emperors through the Flavian dynasty, from AD 69 - 96. Covers emperors Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasia, Titus and Domitian
 - Annales: describes the reigns of the Julio-Claudian emperors: Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. It also picks up after the *historiae*, describing the next two emperors Nerva and Trajan
 - Other works
 - Germania: a description of the Germanic tribes living north of the empire, published in AD 98
 - Agricola: a biography of his father-in-law Agricola, a governor in Britain, which province he describes in the work
- **Pliny the elder:** Gaius Plinius Secundus. Born in Como in AD 23, Pliny saw significant military and political service throughout his life. He was commander of the fleet at Misenum, during which time he witnessed the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius August 24th, AD 79. When he went to the site for a closer look, and to rescue survivors, he died from the noxious vapors.
 - Natural History: An encyclopedia, a compilation of all the knowledge he had collected in his life
- **Pliny the Younger:** Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus. Nephew and adopted son of Pliny the Elder, also born at Como around AD 61. Very active in politics, he served as consul in 100, and later as governor of Bithynia. He was famous for his correspondence with the emperor Trajan.
 - Panegyricus: an example of Pliny's oratory, dedicated to Trajan in 100
 - Epistulae: A compilation of his letters to Trajan, including detailed accounts of the eruption of Vesuvius. The best known of their conversations revolved around the management of the Christians. Pliny asks Trajan's advice, and the emperor counsels him to prosecute them as any others, according only to their obedience to the law
- Satire
 - **Juvenal:** Decimus Junius Juvenalis. Hailing from the city Aquinum, he is regarded as the greatest of the Roman satire writers
 - Satires: 5 books consisting of a total of 16 poems present an exaggerated depiction of the flaws of the Roman people
 - **Horace:** Quintus Horatius Flaccus. Born at Venosa, Horace was prominent in the mid to late 1st century BC. He was the son of a freed slave, who went to great lengths to ensure his son's good education. He later served in Antony's army during the civil war against Caesar, after which he was pardoned following the seizure of his property. He turned to poetry to sustain himself, attracting the attention and good will of the great patron Maecenas. He joined his literary circle, along with Vergil and Ovid, where he published many works.
 - Satires (sermones): presents Epicurean philosophy, the idea of the "golden mean" in two

- books of satirical poems
- non-satirical works
 - Carmen Saeculare: a hymn to the gods Jupiter, Diana, and Venus, commissioned by Augustus
 - Odes (carmina): 4 books of poems about life in the time of Augustus
 - Epodes: more poems
 - Ars Poetica: a book on writing, taking the form of a letter of advice regarding the pursuit of literature
- **Petronius:** sometimes referred to as the *arbiter elegantiae* of Nero's court.
 - Satyricon: a satirical novel about the character Trimalchio, includes a famous scene of a banquet he holds
- Myth
 - **Vergil:** Publius Vergilius Maro. Born near Mantua (in the village of Andes specifically) in 70 BC, he dedicated most of his life to his writing. He received patronage from Maecenas, to whom he dedicated his Georgics. One curious tradition that arose from one of his works was the *Sortes Vergilianae*, a practice of divining the future by turning to a random line of his books.
 - Aeneid: the story of the Roman national hero Aeneas. It tells the end of the Trojan war, Aeneas' flight from Troy, his difficult journeys tormented by Hera, and his establishment of a new home in Italy after defeating Turnus and marry Lavinia
 - non-mythic works
 - Eclogues: 10 books of poems from the perspective of rural herdsmen describing the political turmoil of their time (pre-Augustus). The most famous of these is the 4th, which foretells the birth of a child of great importance, often interpreted by early Christians as referring to Jesus.
 - Georgics: 4 books of poems about farm life. The 4th of these ends with stories of the mythic character Aristaeus, who is credited with devising beekeeping, and a telling of the myth of Orpheus.
 - **Ovid:** Publius Ovidius Naso. Ovid was born in Sulmo, Italy in 43 BC. Though he was friends with some of Maecenas' circle, his patron was Messala Corvinus. Later in his life, Ovid would be banished to Tomi, on the Black Sea. He tells us this was because of “carmen et error” a poem and a mistake. We believe the poem to have been the *Ars Amatoria*, and the mistake may have been an affair with a relative of Augustus.
 - Metamorphoses: 15 books of mythic stories surrounding the theme of changes in form
 - Non mythic works
 - *Ars Amatoria*: a guidebook to the art of seduction, likely the cause of his exile from Rome
 - *Amores*: A book of 50 love poems
 - *Heroides*: A book of 20 poems, in the style of letters from famous heroines written to their husbands or their lovers
 - *Tristia*: a collection of sorrowful poems composed during his exile
 - *Fasti*: a work on the Roman calendar and the many festivals celebrated
- More authors
 - **Catullus:** Gaius Valerius Catullus. Born in the city of Verona, in Cisalpine Gaul, many of his poems are addressed to Lesbia. We believe her true name was Clodia, the sister of Clodius Pulcher.

- Carmina: a collection of 116 poems. Among these, the most famous is perhaps number 64, which tells of the wedding of Peleus and Thetis. His work was dedicated to the author Nepos (q.v.)
- **Lucretius:**
 - De rerum naturae: "on the nature of things" a scientific work describing the natural world, something of an encyclopedia
- **Lucan**
 - Pharsalia: technically titled Bellum Civile, this tells of the civil war between Caesar and Pompey, generally favorable to Pompey
- **Apuleius:** Lucius Apuleius. Born in Madaurus in the province of Numidia, Apuleius is well known for a story involving his wife. He was tended in his travels by a rich widow, whom he eventually married. He would later have to defend himself against allegations that he had charmed her with magic.
 - Metamorphosis: Also called the Golden Ass, it is often regarded as the first Roman novel, telling the story of a man named Lucius who is changed into a donkey
- Cato the Elder: Marcus Porcius Cato. Born in Tusculum, Italy in 234 BC, Cato was an orator and politician. He served during the Second Punic War, and his hostility towards the Carthaginians is well known, as he would later end all his speeches with the phrase "Carthago delenda est" meaning "Carthage must be destroyed"
 - Origines: a work of history in 7 books including the founding of Rome and detailing some of Rome's recent wars
 - De Agri Cultura: also called De Re Rustica, a treatise on farming, is the oldest surviving piece of Latin prose. It also reveals Cato's famous conservative and thrifty nature
- Suetonius. Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus. Born around AD 70, Suetonius was a famous biographer and friend of Pliny the younger. He served as secretary to the emperor Trajan until he was dismissed because of an affair with the emperor's wife Vibia Sabina.
 - De Vita Caesarum: On the lives of the Caesar's. A biographical account of Caesar and the first 11 emperors, including the five Julio-Claudians, the three short-lived emperors of 69, and the Flavians, ending with Domitian.
 - De Viris Illustribus. Accounts of important men, including sections on orators and poets
- Ennius: Quintus Ennius. Born in Rudiae, he was a soldier during the Second Punic War. Regarded as the father of poetry, he is also known for one particularly alliterative line of poetry: *O Tite tute Tati tibi tanta tyranne tulisti*
 - Annales: A work of history beginning with Aeneas' flight from Troy, and continuing to his own day.
- Varro: Publius Terentius Varro (Atacinus). Born near the Atax river in Gaul
 - Bellum Sequanicum: A poem telling of Caesar's war in Germany against Ariovistus.
- Varro: Marcus Terentius Varro (Reatinus). Born in Reate in 116 BC, he was active in politics, as well as in the military, having been in Pompey's army during the civil war. He was responsible for more works than almost any other author, though little survives.
 - De Re Rustica: A work on farming, written in three books
 - De Lingua Latina: A work on grammar and etymology in 25 books
 - Res Divinae: 41 books on Roman religion
- Statius: Publius Papinius Statius. Born around AD 45 in Naples, an author of epic poetry.
 - Thebaid: A 12 book epic regarding the mythological story of the Seven Against Thebes

- Silvae: a five book collection of 32 short poems
- Achilleid: an epic of the story of Achilles, he was unable to finish before his death in 96.
- Silius Italicus: Born around 26 at Padua, active in politics, consul in 68, governor of Asia around 77.
 - Punica: An epic on the Second Punic War, it is the longest surviving Latin poem
- Nepos: Cornelius Nepos. Born around 100 in the Gallic village Hostilia. He was a friend of Catullus, and indeed Catullus dedicated some of his poems to Nepos.
 - Exempla: Anecdotes of various events in Roman history
 - De Viris Illustribus: On Famous Men, biographical work on prominent individuals, both Roman and foreign
- Aulus Gellius:
 - Noctes Atticae: Attic Nights: 20 volumes of stories of friends and acquaintances and their conversations on a variety of topics. He began compiling these stories during his evenings while staying a winter in Athens.
- Apicius: cookbook
- Vitruvius: architecture
- Tibullus and Propertius: elegiac poetry
- Galen: medicine
- Frontinus: Aqueducts
- Manilius: Astronomy