

Syra sōla

**a Latin Novella
by Lance Piantaggini**

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Index Capitulōrum

Praefātiō

- I. Syra sōla**
- II. Rōmae**
- III. domī**
- IV. in Subūrā**
- V. in Templīs**
- VI. familia**
- VII. amīcī**
- VIII. Pompēiīs**
- IX. Herculānei**
- X. camēlopardalis**

Indiculus Verbōrum

Praefātiō

Pīsō Ille Poētulus was the first Latin novella in the collection that has become known as the “Pisoverse.” *Pīsō* was published in November of 2016, written with 108 unique words (excluding names, different forms of words, and meaning established within the text). Since then, new characters have been introduced in other novellas ranging from 20 to 104 unique words. Syra has appeared briefly in *Rūfus et gladiātōrēs: Student FVR Reader*, as well as in *Drūsilla et convīvium magārum*. Syra now has her own story in this latest novella of 29 unique words, and is about 1400 total words in length.

Although a low unique word count isn’t everything, it’s certainly most things when it comes to the beginning student reading Latin. Most available texts, however, are written with far too many words to be read with ease. *Syra sōla* is the latest novella to address this lack of understandable reading material with sheltered (i.e. limited) vocabulary available to beginning Latin students.

Like other recent novellas, *Syra sōla* was written with many “super clear cognates” generated from a shared document (search magisterp.com), accounting for 10 of the 29 unique words! With the low unique word counts, and numerous cognates, the Pisoverse novellas now provide nearly 33,000 total words for the beginning Latin student to read! That’s with a vocabulary of just 424 unique words across all current novellas (13)!

Exposing learners to multicultural Rome and beyond, Syra travels to the famous coastal towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. She encounters animals from Africa, including arguably the best Latin animal name, *camēlopardalis* (a “giraffe,” because it really DOES look like a camel-lion-panther!). *Don’t let that word bog you down; it’s pronounced camēēēēloPARRRRRdalis, with the accent on the “PAR,” and has the rhythm of repeating iambs (i.e. short long short long short short). I hope your learners enjoy saying it as much as I do!*

The *Index Verbōrum* is rather comprehensive, with an English equivalent and example phrases from the text found under each vocabulary word. Meaning is established for every single word form in this novella.

I'd like to thank all the Pisoverse readers requesting more texts for first year Latin students; there could never be too many of these. Just like in *Rūfus et Lūcia: liberī lutulentī*, and *Quīntus et nox horrifica*, I've tried my hand at a bit of drawing. Aside from those two maps, the illustrations by Lauren Aczon provide significant comprehension support for the beginner reading *Syra*. See more of Lauren's artwork on Instagram @leaczon, and/or on her blog, (www.quickeningforce.blogspot.com).

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P.S. Createspace has merged with KDP as of fall 2018, and now doesn't support Latin. It's unclear what this means aside from restrictions being placed on authors of Latin novellas. Email kdp-customersupport1@amazon.com to endorse Latin becoming a supported language. Thank you!

I

Syra sōla

Syra est Rōmāna.

Syra sōla est.

Syra est Rōmāna sōla.

Syra sōla Rōmāna est. sed, Syra amīcōs habet.

amīcī Syrae sunt multī.

Sextus est amīcus Syrae.

Rūfus amīcus Syrae est.

Quīntus quoque est amīcus Syrae.

Syra est amīca Sextī, Rūfī, et Quīntī.

Syra amīcōs multōs habet. Syrae placet habēre amīcōs. sed, Syrae quoque placet esse solum.

Syrae placet esse solum, et Syrae placet esse Rōmānum. Syrae placet esse solum Rōmānum!

II

Rōmae

Syra est Rōmae.*

Syra vult esse sōla.

Syra vult esse sōla, Rōmae.

Syra sōla esse vult, Rōmae. sed, sunt multī Rōmānī,
Rōmae—ēheu!

Syra vult esse sōla in Subūrā. sed, Rōmānī multī
sunt in Subūrā.

in Templō Panthēō, Syra vult esse sōla...

...et Syra vult esse sōla in Templō Iānī.

sunt multī Rōmānī in Templō Panthēō.

Rōmānī multī sunt in Templō Iānī.

Syra vult esse sōla ubīque Rōmae. sed, multī Rōmānī
sunt ubīque Rōmae!

Syra impatiēns est.

III

domī

Syrae placet esse solum ubique. sed, Rōmānī multī sunt Rōmae.

est diēs Lūnae.

iam, Syra domī est.

Syrae placet esse solum domī.

Syra vult esse sōla domī.

ēheu!

familia Syrae domī est!

Syra sōla esse vult. sed, familia Syrae domī est.

Syra familiam īgnōrat.

iam, Syra vult īre ad Subūram. Syra vult esse sōla in Subūrā.

IV

in Subūrā

Syrae placet esse solum, domī.

Syra voluit esse sōla, domī. sed, familia domī erat.

Syra voluit ire ad Subūram.

iam, Syra in Subūrā est. iam, Syra sōla esse vult.

ēheu!

in Subūrā, sunt Rōmānī multī!

sunt nimis multī* Rōmānī Rōmae, in Subūrā!

Syra impatiēns iam est.

Syra Rōmānōs ignōrāre vult.

Syra vult ignōrāre Rōmānōs, sed Rōmānus fūriōsus
et impatiēns it in Subūram.

est Terrex.

iam, turba Rōmānōrum* it ad Terregem.

turba Rōmānōrum vult Terregem habēre convīvium.*

Terrex convīvia multa habet. sed, Terrex vult esse sōlus, diēbus Lūnae.

Syrae Terrex nōn placet. Syrae nōn placent turbae Rōmānōrum. Syrae nōn placet Subūra.

Syra:

“suntne Rōmānī in Templō Panthēō? suntne Rōmānī in Templō Iānī? volō esse sōla.”

Syra vult ire ad Templum Panthēum.

V

in Templis

Syra voluit esse sōla. sed, nimis multī Rōmānī erant in Subūrā.

Syra ad Templum Panthēum īvit.

iam, Syrain Templō Panthēō est , sed...

Syra:

"vah!* Rōmānī sunt in Templō Panthēō! sōla nōn sum. volō esse sōla. volō esssse sōōōōla! suntne multī Rōmānī in Templō Iānī?"

Templum Iānī est in Forō Rōmānō.

Syra ad Forum Rōmānum it. Syra impatienter it ad Forum.

iam, Syra in Forō Rōmānō est...

...sed...

ēheu! quoque sunt nimis multī Rōmānī!

Rōmānī multī sunt in Forō. quoque sunt mercātōrēs multī in Forō.

mercātor:

“Rōmānula, vīsne habēre animal? habeō animālia.”

Syra impatiēns est.

Syra mercātōrem impatienter īgnōrat.

mercātor:

“Rōmānula, vīsne habēre equum? habeō equōs multōs et rārōs.”

Syra fūriōsa iam est!

Syra:

“volō esse sōla! sōōōōla!”

Syrae sōla esse vult. sed, sunt nimis multī Rōmānī ubīque Rōmae!

iam, Syra domum īre vult.

Syra sōla continues...

Indiculus Verbōrum

(words appearing in this preview, only)

A, C, D

ad *towards, to*

amica *friend*

amīcī *friends*

amicōs *friends*

amicus *friends*

animal *animal*

animālia *animals*

convīvia *dinner parties*

convīvium *dinner party*

diēbus *days*

diēs *day*

domī *at home*

domum *to home*

E, F, H

equōs *horses*

equum *horse*

erant *were*

erat *was*

esse *to be*

est *is*

ēheu! *Oh no!*

familia *family*

familiam *family*

fūriōsa *furious*

fūriōsus *furious*

habeō *I have*

habet *has*

habēre *to have*

I, M, N

iam *now*

ignōrāre *to ignore*

ignōrat *ignores*

impatienter *impatiently*

impatiēns *impatient*

in *in, on*

it *goes*

ire *to go*

ivit *went*

mercātor *merchant*

mercātōrem *merchant*

mercātōrēs *merchants*

multa *many*

multī *many*

multōs *many*

nimis *too, too much*

nōn *not, doesn't*

P, Q, R, S

placent *likes*

placet *likes*

quoque *also*

rārōs *rare*

sed *but*

sōla *alone, only*

sōlum *alone*

sōlus *alone*

sum *I am*

sunt *are*

suntne? *Are they?*

T, U, V

templis *temples*

templō *in the temple*

templum *temple*

turba *crowd*

turbae *crowds*

ubique *everywhere*

vah! *Ah!*

visne? *Do you want?*

volō *I want*

voluit *wanted*

vult *wants*