

Pompeii is a Roman City.

In this story, a Roman boy named Tranio tells us the story of what happens to Pompeii in AD79.

Tranio and his friend Livia flee the harbour, where they witness the destruction of their city.





On a hillside overlooking the sparkling bay of Naples, the Roman city of Pompeii glimmered in the sunlight.

From his window, young Tranio listened to the noise humming from bars, taverns and shops around him, and to the busy tradesmen haggling in the streets below. Beyond the massive city walls he could see Pompeii's greatest protector looming in the distance. They called it Vesuvius, the Gentle Mountain.

Could anyone feel safer than here, Tranio wondered? Was anything more beautiful?

**T**ranio was the son of Dion the actor and lived with his parents near the Theatre District of Pompeii. He'd often sneak to the harbour at the mouth of the River Sarnus and hide behind sacks of grain. There he'd watch pots of wine, oil and spices being carried to and from the ships, or fishermen unloading their rich catches.





Sometimes Tranio went to the forum to watch the politicians make their speeches, the stall-holders argue, and listen to the poets sing.

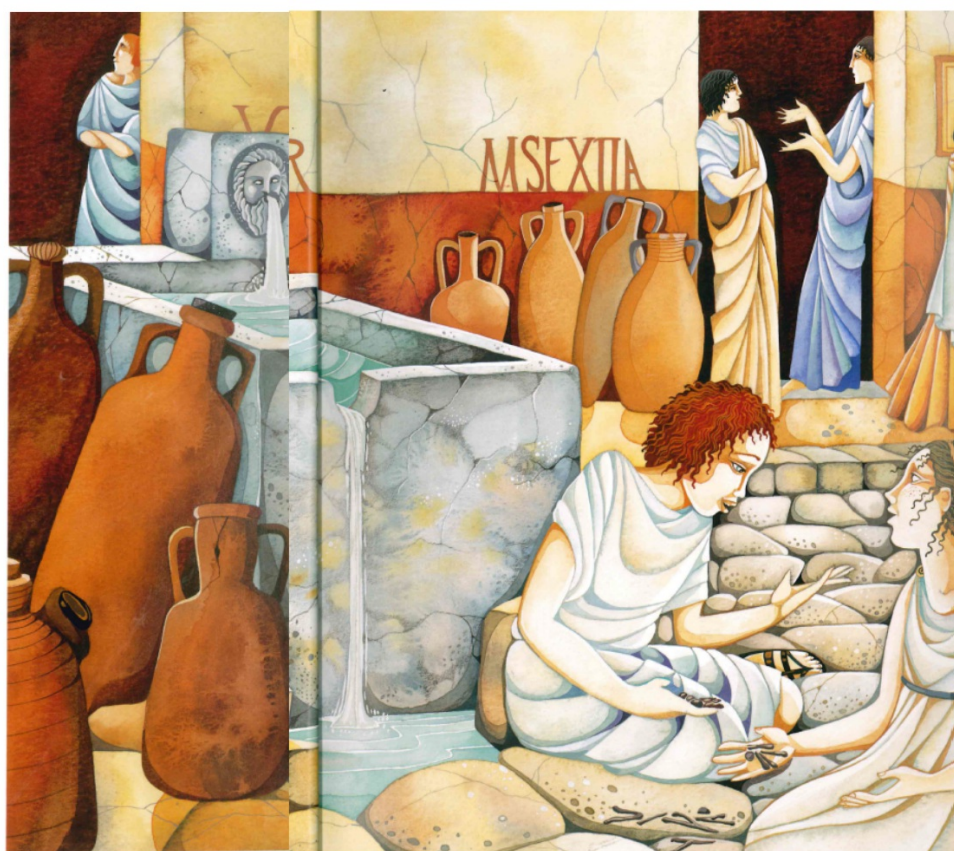
His favourite song was:

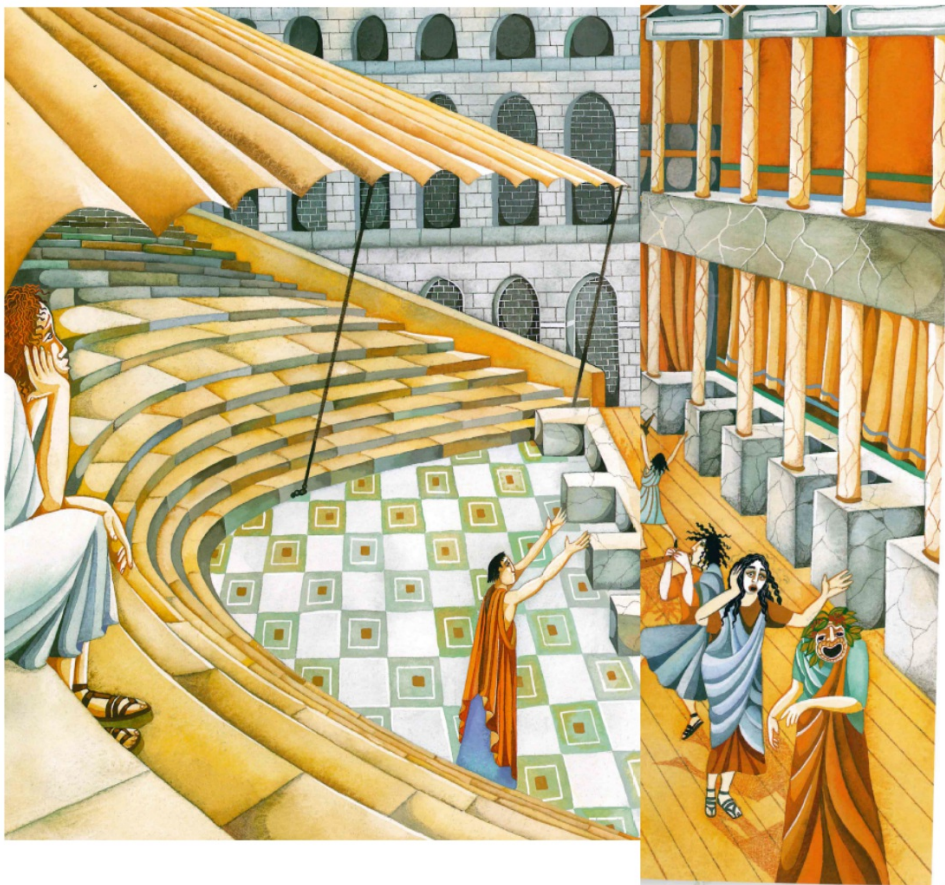
“Rumble down, tumble down,  
great city walls,  
Feel the ground grumble,  
the citizens stumble  
When the earth shakes, and  
rumble down, tumble down.”

Everyone would join in, laughing as they remembered the earthquake tremors. A few years before Tranio was born there had been a big earthquake in Pompeii, and parts of the town had still not yet been fully repaired. But nobody took tremors seriously any more.

**O**n other mornings, Tranio would shout up to Livia, the baker's daughter, who lived across the street, "Liv! Stop curling your hair and come and play jacks! I've got a bag of bones from mother's kitchen! They're just the right size!"

Livia spent most of her time learning to weave and cook, but during the hot afternoons she and Tranio would squat by the fountain playing knucklebones, or chase dogs down the street.





One hot August day, Dion took Tranio through a shady passage into one of Pompeii's two theatres on the edge of the city, where a pantomime was being rehearsed.

"Sit on the steps, son, and learn!" said Dion. "We'll be using you in small parts soon."

To begin with, Tranio enjoyed watching the sword fights and strutting clowns. The masked actors playing thieves and devils and the leaping acrobats quite took his breath away. But eventually his attention began to wander ...

**T**hen something happened ...  
The stone steps creaked, the flaps began to rattle and the building quivered. Props fell to the stage and scenery split. Tranio's father froze to the spot. Everyone fell silent.

But one by one the actors began to relax. "Rumble down, tumble down, here we go again!" they chanted.


"Nothing to fear, everybody!" called Tranio's father. "Back to rehearsal, please." The actors fastened their masks and carried on as if nothing had happened.

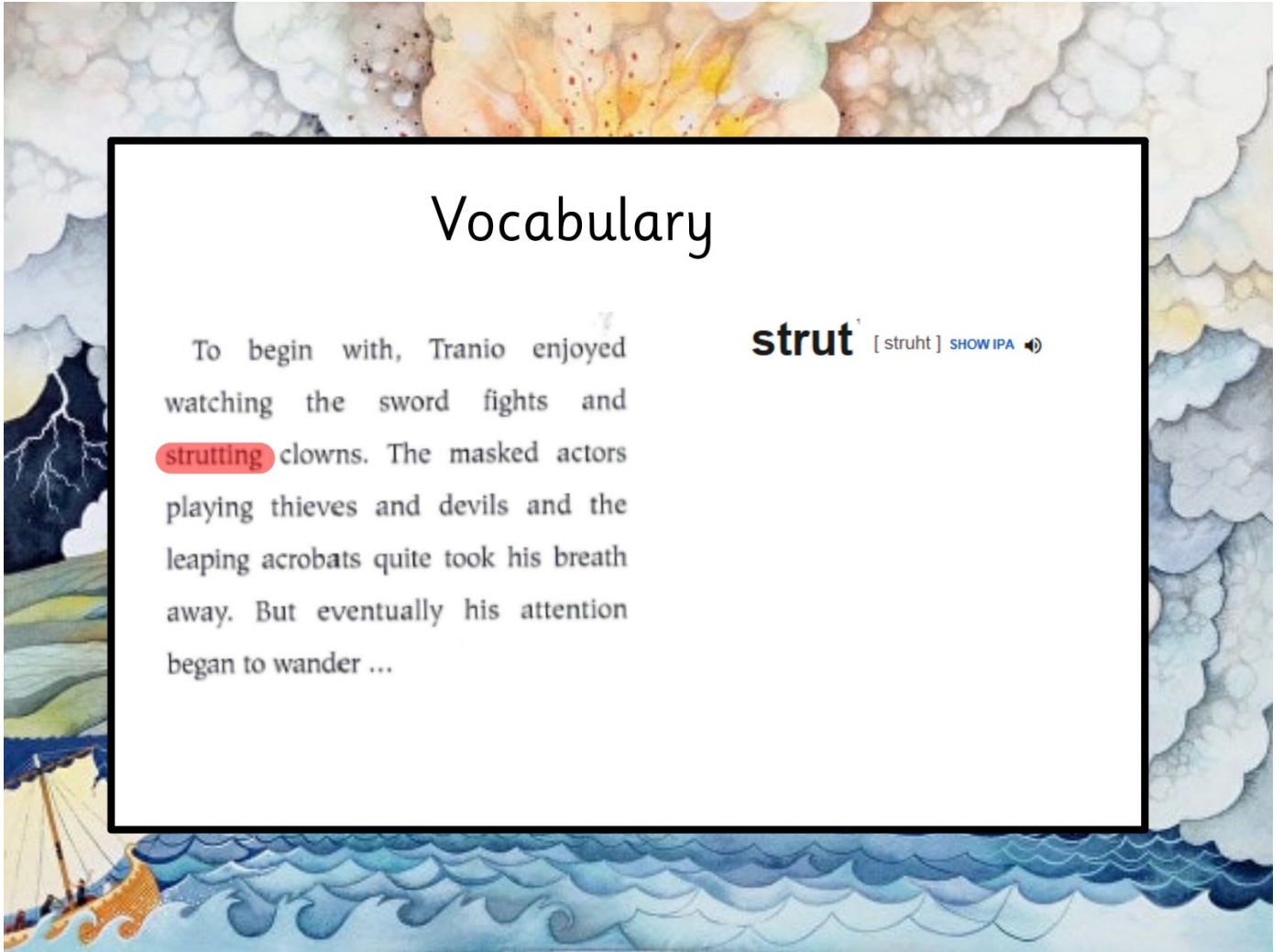
But Tranio wriggled through the awning and ran away down the street.



## Vocabulary


To begin with, Tranio enjoyed watching the sword fights and **strutting** clowns. The masked actors playing thieves and devils and the leaping acrobats quite took his breath away. But eventually his attention began to wander ...

**strut** [struht] [SHOW IPA](#) 





## Vocabulary

**strut** <sup>1</sup> [struht] [SHOW IPA](#) 

Which of the following words would best replace the word **strut**?




stride

race

tiptoe

## Vocabulary

**strut** <sup>1</sup> [stru:t] [SHOW IPA](#) 

We can add a suffix onto the word strut, to change the tense.



-ing


-ed

-s

my turn



## Vocabulary

**strut** <sup>1</sup> [struht] [SHOW IPA](#) 


The Roman Emperor **strutted**  
**powerfully** towards the **huge** ship.

-ing

-ed

-s

## Vocabulary

**strut** <sup>1</sup> [struht] [SHOW IPA](#) 

Create two sentences using the word strut or strut with a suffix added to it.

-ing

-ed

-s



Remember mine...

The Roman Emporer **strutted**  
**powerfully** towards the **huge** ship.