

Student 4: High Achieved

A Roman woman had many duties to being a good wife: Lucretia would be a great example for this. While Collatinus was away she still did everything to keep her honour and her husband's. She was still a dedicated wife even though he wasn't at home. Lucretia spun the wool with her slave girls making Collatinus's cloak. "The cloak made by our hands must be sent to our master as soon as possible." This shows that even though he was away she still felt it was her duty to make his cloak and get it to him as soon as possible (1). "By a dim light the slave girls were working through their allotted stints." This shows that Lucretia and her slave girls were working late into the night to get the spinning done (2). She was a hard worker and never gave up. She showed it in many ways from looking after the household when he was away to making his clothes, like a good Roman housewife.

Lucretia had a lot of loyalty concerning her husband. Lucretia was never touched by another man (3). This shows she was very loyal to her husband and had never slept with anyone but him. This was ripped away from her after Sextus Tarquinius raped her. Lucretia was protective of her husband's reputation and that is why she was so faithful and she wasn't looking out for herself, she was looking out for Collatinus because she truly loved him and it would crush her to see his reputation tossed away by something so selfish. After Sextus raped her she was distraught. Lucretia was focused on protecting her husband's reputation which she forgot to look after herself. In the end she committed suicide. Those days in Rome it was quite honourable to kill yourself (4).

Terentia would also be a very good example of what a good Roman wife should be. She had duties like every other wife and she stood by them. When Cicero went to Italy he had sent a letter back to her saying that she shouldn't meet him because he was concerned for her health. Terentia stayed home: she listened to her husband as a wife should (5). In another letter Cicero entrusted his wife to get the villa ready for some guests that were visiting. *Labrum si in balineo non est, ut sit*, "See to it that there is a basin in the bathroom." (6) This was more like a master talking to a slave. Terentia still looked after her children even when Cicero was away. This shows that Cicero trusted his wife to look after the children's interests.

Terentia was a very loyal wife. She stayed loyal when Cicero was exiled for ten years. He calls her *fidissima atque optima uxor* (7). This was expected of a Roman wife and she looked after the home and children until he returned.