

Student 1: Low Excellence

Lucretia shows her loyalty to Collatinus as his wife by spinning at home *nebat* (Ovid, *Fasti* 2, 741) "she was spinning" (1) while the wife of Sextus Tarquinius, the king's son, was lying drunk in the palace with her sisters-in-law, having obviously been partying. *Ecce nurus regis fuis per colla coronis inveniunt posito pervigilare mero.* (*Fasti* 2. 739-740) "Look! They found the king's daughters-in-law with garlands askew around their necks whiling the night away with wine put down beside them." (2) This was not acceptable behaviour for a good Roman wife and their actions contrasted greatly with the loyalty of Lucretia, almost similar to juxtaposition. She was extremely worried about her husband while he was at the siege of Ardea and her worry was so great that she felt "a freezing cold take hold of her heart." (3) Lucretia was thinking about Collatinus more than any other matter so that in itself shows that he was the most important thing in her life. Lucretia's loyalty is also showcased when Tarquinius was attempting to rape her. "For the first time her breasts were touched by a hand other than her husband's." (4). This shows her fidelity and loyalty to her husband, values expected by Roman men.

While Cicero was in exile his wife Terentia showed her duty by looking after the children and house. In one of his earlier letters Cicero references his children, Tullia and Marcus. *Quid Tulliola mea fiet?* "What will become of my little Tullia?" *Cicero meus, quid aget?* "What will my Cicero do?" While primarily these questions showcase Cicero's concern for his children they also imply that Terentia herself is supporting them and caring for them, otherwise why would Cicero be asking her specifically? This shows that Terentia is doing her duties as a mother. (5) When Cicero worries about Tullia's marriage and reputation it is clear that he trusts Terentia to find a solution. (6) Later in the events following Cicero's exile he sent her a message to prepare the house asking her to "see to it that there is enough food and everything is clean." (7) She also showed her duty by sending on letters from Caesar, a fact which Cicero appreciated. This is a clear indication of the expectation that a Roman wife will look after the children and the house and keep her husband's interests foremost in her mind.