

- 1 Virgil glorifies the life of the “O fortunatos agricolas ...” (o fortunate farmers” , reminding his readers that “hanc vitam Remus et frater”). This was the life of Remus and his brother). By making a connection between the founders of Rome and the country way of life Virgil is clearly stating that in all likelihood Virgil would have been trying to convince his peers of the benefits of country life by listing the advantages: no influence by those holding office, no kings, no civil wars, no envy of the wealthy.
- 2 The insulae in the city are seen as unsafe with dishonest vilicus who cover up faults in their buildings. Historically they often burn down most likely because of poor maintenance.
- 3 Juvenal says people should move to the country where” there are no fires, no fears by night”
- 4 (Sat 3. 193), continuing to lay out what befalls those who live in the city, including being crushed to death in the street without a coin to pay to cross to the Underworld. The rich, however, can be safely transported in litters.
- 5 Horace appears to be in favour of city life as long as he has the means to support himself well enough to wander at will through the market place and sleep well past dawn. “quacumque libido est incedo” (Sat 1.6 111-112). He feels safe to walk alone.
- 6 He also wrote about the simple life in the country in his fable about the town and country mouse. The country mouse scrimped and saved his simple food, bacon scraps and dried grapes, but shared it with his visitor from the town.
- 7 Romans viewed the country as a simpler, safer life without corruption where people cared for each other e.g. the country mouse shares with his town mouse friend.
- 8 The city might be fine for the rich but it was viewed as life-threatening too, and it is implied that its inhabitants were lacking in morals.