

ROMANS, ANGLO-SAXONS, AND VIKINGS

THE END OF ROMAN BRITAIN

Resources

The Ruin

*Bright were the forts, many the bath houses,
High the many towers, great the noise of men,
Many the beer halls full of the joys of men.
Mighty fate destroyed them,
Days of disease came.
Death swept away their bravery,
Their forts were deserted, the city fell to ruin.
The crowds who might have built it again lay dead on the earth.
That is why courtyards rot and lofty gates fall,
And the wood on the roofs is stripped of tiles.*

Version A (simplified text)

The Ruin

Splendid this rampart is, though fate destroyed it.

The city buildings fell down, the work of giants crumble.

Tumbled are the towers, ruined the roofs and broken the gate with its bars.

Frost breaks up the plaster and all the ceilings gape wide open.

For they are torn and collapsed, age has eaten them up.

In the hard earth lie the dead long-gone builders, a hundred generations of people have passed by. [A]

The moss has stained this wall red and gray while it stood through storms as kingdoms rose and fell.

Now the high curved wall itself has fallen down.

The builders put up their round arch buildings, the public halls were bright with high chimneys.

Many were the bath houses ringing with happy noise, many the beer houses full of human joy. [B]

Mighty fate brought change to it all.

Slaughter was widespread and disease spread,

Death took away those brave men, the halls of warriors became empty places.

The city crumbled, its builders fell and its armies are in the earth.

And so these halls are empty and this red curved roof now sheds its tiles. [C]

Decay has brought it to the ground, smashed it to piles of rubble.

Long since gone an army of heroes, glorious, loaded with gold, shone in their armour, gazed on jewels and treasure.

Stone buildings stood, hot streams threw out fountains of water inside the city walls. [D]

Version B (original text)

The Ruin

(version B)

Word	Meaning
ceiling	part of a room – at the top
collapsed	fallen down
crumble	break into small bits, like a biscuit
decay	rot
destroyed	wrecked, ruined, broken
disease	illness – you are sick
fate	what the gods say will happen to you
fountain	water sprays out of it
frost	frozen dew
gape	wide open
generation	time a person lives
glorious	great, wonderful, splendid
hero	famous person you look up to
kingdom	land ruled by king or queen
loaded	weighed down with
plaster	a kind of cement you put on walls
public	for all the people
rampart	walls of a city
rubble	broken bits of brick, plaster, stone, etc.
sheds	loses
slaughter	kill
splendid	magnificent, wonderful
tile	small, thin square flat piece of baked clay to put on a roof
tower	fort on the walls you fight from
tumbled	fell down
warrior	fighter, soldier
widespread	all over

Name

Date

Paragraph labels

- A
- B
- C
- D

buildings (nouns)
rampart

Title

Splendid this rampart is, though fate destroyed it.
The city buildings fell down, the work of giants crumble.
Tumbled are the towers, ruined the roofs and broken the gate with its bars.
Frost breaks up the plaster and all the ceilings gape wide open.
For they are torn and collapsed, age has eaten them up.
In the hard earth lie the dead long gone builders, a hundred generations of people have passed by. [A]

The moss has stained this wall red and grey while it stood through storms as kingdoms rose and fell.
Now the high curved wall itself has fallen down. The builders put up their round arch buildings, the public halls were bright with high chimneys.
Many were the bath houses ringing with happy noise, many the beer houses full of human joy. [B]

Mighty fate brought change to it all. Slaughter was widespread and disease spread, Death took away those brave men, the halls of warriors became empty places. [C]

The city crumbled, its builders fell and its armies are in the earth.
And so these halls are empty and this red curved roof now sheds its tiles.
Decay has brought it to the ground, smashed it to piles of rubble.
Long since gone an army of heroes, glorious, loaded with gold shone in their armour, gazed on jewels and treasure.
Stone buildings stood, hot streams threw out fountains of water inside the city walls. [D]

doing words
[verbs]
like destroyed

feeling Words
[adjectives]
like happy

POEM WORD MEANINGS

Word	What it means
ceilings	part of a room - at the top
collapsed	fall down
crumble	break into small bits, like a biscuit
decay	rot
destroyed	wreck, ruin, break
disease	illness - germs cause this. You are sick
fate	what the gods say will happen to you
fountains	water sprays out of them, like in a garden
frost	cold weather that makes water freeze
gape	wide open
generations	time a person lives
glorious	great, famous
hero	a famous person you look up to.
kingdom	land a king rules
loaded	weighed down with
plaster	a kind of cement you put on walls
public	all the people
rampart	walls of a city
rubble	broken bits of brick, plaster, stone etc.
sheds	throws down
slaughter	kill
splendid	great, wonderful
like	small, thin square flat piece of stone to put on a roof
towers	forts on the walls you fight from
tumbled	fall down
warriors	fighters, soldiers
widespread	all over