

I'm A Gladiator... Get Me Out Of Here!

An Ancient Roman Game Show

Parts:	Antius	presenter
	Decorus	presenter
	Flavia	gladiator contestant
	Cassius	gladiator contestant
	Vita	gladiator contestant
	Magnus	gladiator contestant

Decorus: Welcome to I'm A Gladiator Get Me Out Of Here, where we're down to our last four contestants. Today's vote could decide this year's winner – The Gadiatorus Maximus Prize. Isn't that so, Antius?

Antius: That's right, Decorus. We've got two girl gladiators left in the competition: Flavia and Vita, and two boys: Cassius and Magnus. As always, the losers will be fed to the lions.

Decorus: In fact, last week's loser is still waiting to be eaten. He says it's not in his contract to be eaten alive – so we might have to kill him first. He's in the lion cage right now going through every word of his contract...

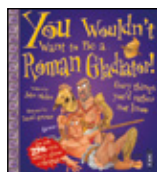
Antius: Reading between the lions. Did you see one of the lions grab his girlfriend?

Decorus: Did it seize her?

Antius: Caesar, where? (*salutes*) Hail Caesar! Oh, I see what you mean. Yes, the lion gobbled her up, you know. The audience went wild.

Decorus: Not as wild as the lion. He sat licking his lips looking pleased with himself. He seemed really gladiator. Glad-he-ate-her! Get it?

Antius: I think that joke's in bad taste.



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- Decorus: The lion didn't think so. Very tasty!
- Antius: That's enough about lions – let's find out what grisly challenges await our four gladiators this week in the arena of the Colosseum in Rome. And you know what that means?
- Decorus: Of course I know what that means. Arena means 'sand' because that's what's on the floor (it helps to soak up the blood). Colosseum means 'huge'. It's a massive amphitheatre where crowds come to cheer as the gladiators fight and get ripped apart.
- Antius: It means we're in for some great fun - so long as you're not a gladiator. *(Turns to the 4 nervous contestants)*
What made you guys want to be gladiators in the first place?
- All: We had no choice.
- Decorus: So how did you get into this business, Flavia?
- Flavia: Not many girls are gladiators but I was a slave and was made to fight other slaves to entertain my owners. I wasn't much good so they sent me to Ludus Gladiatorus, the training school for gladiators. It was grim.
- Cassius: I went there, too. School dinners were gross – always yuk porridge and yuk boiled beans – as well as plenty of yuk ash.
- Antius: You mean stew - goul-ash?
- Cassius: Just ash – dry, dusty and dire. We had to eat it as they said it built up our bodies.
- Flavia: It just made me cough a lot. They used to whip us, too. It was tough. Even playtime was in Latin.



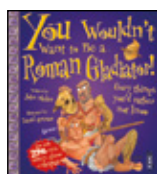

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- Decorus:** Don't tell Ofstedius or they may bring it back! But all that wasn't as tough as what we've got in store for you now. We'd better get started. What time is it?
- Antius:** XX past VII. Time to see what's in the arena for tonight's show. It's so exciting as we just don't know who will win. There's nothing in it.
- Decorus:** Yes there is – I told you there's lots of sand in the arena.
- Antius:** No, there's nothing between the contestants. Any one of them could win. It's a tight contest.
- Decorus:** That's true – this toga is way too small. So what you're saying is, this contest could be a close shave. Which reminds me... what's the difference between a mad gladiator and his barber?
- Antius:** I don't know. What is the difference between a mad gladiator and his barber?
- Decorus:** One's a raving showman, the other's a shaving Roman! Talking of a raving showman, let's just have a word with Mad Magnus, our contestant with a terrible temper.
- Magnus:** Well wouldn't you be mad – having to perform like this in front of thousands? And I'm really cross that my twin sister has to be here as well.
- Vita:** Because I'm a celebrity. They all come to see me, that's why. I add glamour and style. I'm the latest star-brand gladiator.
- Magnus:** Yeah – just look at your brand – burnt into your skin: FRE. That's not glamorous, is it?
- Vita:** What's wrong with it? It stands for Family Rome Entertainment.




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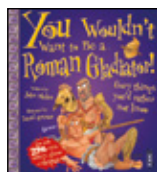
- Magnus: No it doesn't. It should be FHE but you wriggled and blurred the H when the red hot iron was pressed onto your arm. FHE means you once ran away: Fugitivus Hic Est. You were a fugitive with hiccups.
- Vita: At least I didn't accidentally sit on the red hot iron and get branded on the behind – like you did. FHE for you was Fiery Hot End!
- Magnus: Don't tell everyone about my burnt backside.
- Vita: And don't you get your subligaculum in a twist!
- Magnus: You leave my pants out of this...
- Antius: All right, all right, you two. We don't want fighting to start yet.
- Decorus: Get yourselves in the middle of the arena for the first challenge to begin. Make sure you salute our honoured guest, the Emperor. Otherwise we might have to release the tigers early...
- All gladiators: (*Raising right arms*) Ave, Caesar! Morituri te salutamus!
- Antius: For our viewers at home, that means 'Hail, Caesar! We who are about to die salute you!'
- Decorus: Shouldn't they also shout 'Stand and de-liver'?
- Antius: I see what you mean. For viewers at home, some spectators in the audience like to cut out a dead gladiator's liver. Eating it is meant to make you strong and brave. Please don't try this at home.
- Decorus: When a gladiator gets killed in the arena, we sometimes get a rush of sick people who try to drink the blood while it's still warm.
- Antius: Yuk. I'm glad I've got a flask of tea instead. But listen up,



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gladiators. Here are your tasks...

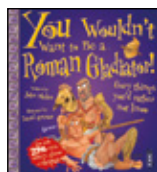
- Flavia: I hope it doesn't involve snakes. I hate snakes. Anything but snakes. Last week I had to spend all night in a tank of snakes and scorpions after eating a plate of live maggots and raw rats' livers.
- Decorus: To me that sounds like a great night out!
- Cassius: I'm no good with chariots. I failed my essedarius exams at school. I'm useless driving horse-drawn chariots.
- Vita: I hope they give me a spear. I'm good with spears. I got the nickname at gladiator school Vita Velitus because I'm good with anything sharp.
- Magnus: Yeah – like your tongue. That's the most dangerous weapon round here. I'm pretty good with a net.
- Vita: Who's Annette? Another one of your useless girlfriends?
- Magnus: No – I trained as a retiarius. I was good at catching my opponents in a net.
- Vita: Yeah, and it's the only way you could catch a girlfriend, too.
- Magnus: Throwing a net over an opponent is a well-known gladiator technique.
- Vita: What a naff weapon that is! A net's no good if they set a charging animal on you. A spear is much more use against a wild boar.
- Magnus: You're the biggest bore round here – stop all your boring stuff about spears...
- Vita: You were hopeless with your net here last week. The only thing



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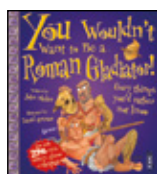
you caught was a fish.

- Magnus:** That's because they filled this arena with water for a staged sea battle. At least I wasn't like you who fell out the trireme and spent all night complaining about being wet and cold.
- Decorus:** Hush hush... calm down, you two. You have to fight against the enemy, not each other. Now, listen to what you all have to do.
- Antius:** Your challenge will be armless.
- Cassius:** That's a relief. I don't mind doing something harmless.
- Flavia:** I'm so glad it's nothing dangerous.
- Antius:** No, not harmless. Armless. You will be unarmed. No weapons allowed.
- Vita:** What, no spears? Please let me have a spear.
- Magnus:** Shut up! Can I have a net? Just a small one?
- Decorus:** No weapons. No shields. No armour.
- Antius:** You will all stand in the middle of the arena totally defenceless as wild and hungry beasts are released. The audience will be gambling on which of you will last the longest.
- Cassius:** Oh no. I failed my bestiarius exams, too. I'm no good with savage beasts.
- Vita:** I am – I'm used to my mad brother.
- Magnus:** Shut up – or I'll tell Mum.



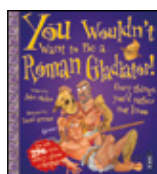
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- Flavia: Please don't make me go in a snake pit. I'm not keen on hyenas, either.
- Cassius: Nor crocodiles, hippos or rhinos. Hungry wolves can be nasty, too.
- Decorus: The first animals you have to fight are wild bears. Big ones. You'll have a bear charging at you from the front and a bear behind.
- Magnus: I'm not having a bare behind! Not with my branded bottom.
- Vita: Don't be such a wimp. I can deal with a couple of bears. Easy. I'm a great bestiarius.
- Magnus: That's true!
- Antius: Not many people know this, but Caesar has a giraffe which is said to be part camel, part leopard – a camelopardalis. That's true.
- Vita: I could easily beat a giraffe.
- Magnus: I reckon it might be a close fight – neck and neck.
- Decorus: Once you've dealt with the bears, there will be elephants.
- Flavia: Will they charge us?
- Antius: No, they'll kill you for free. They've been known to stamp on gladiators. In fact, they are trained to kneel before the emperor.
- Cassius: What if they kneel after the emperor? That's a joke. I always joke when I get scared. I think I'll kneel as well – and pray.
- Decorus: Prey is just what you'll be – when the bears see you.



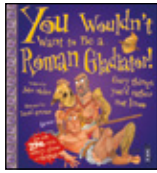
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- Antius: In this game you must stay alive for five minutes. Anyone who manages that can go on to the next game. Good luck – you'll need it.
- Flavia: Game? I don't want to play.
- Others: We have no choice.
- Magnus: Don't look now, but the bears have seen us. They're coming closer.
- Vita: This could get grisly.
- Cassius: No, they're European brown bears. They're man-eaters.
- Flavia: Vita and I should be all right, then.
- Magnus: They're getting too close. Should we try to attack them?
- Cassius: What with? We're defenceless. The crowd is cheering us on to fight them.
- Flavia: Aren't you supposed to play dead then bears leave you alone?
- Vita: Then let's do it. All fall to the ground. Play dead. *(They do)*
- Flavia: Hold your breath. No one breathe.
- Cassius: Don't move a muscle.
- Vita: Magnus hasn't got many to move.
- Magnus: Your only muscle is your tongue – so give it a rest for once.
- Cassius: The bears are sniffing and growling.



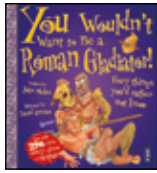
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- Flavia: Don't let them smell fear.
- Cassius: I think we can all smell it.
- Vita: That's Magnus. He always does that when things get tense.
- Magnus: Stop picking on me.
- Antius: Oh no – the crowd is booing.
- Decorus: The gladiators have lasted a few minutes but..... (*long pause*)
- Antius: Why the enormous pause?
- Decorus: That's what bears have. Enormous paws and scary teeth.
- Antius: But they're not attacking. They're walking away.
- Decorus: Time up! They've all passed the first test, so long as the Emperor agrees.
- Flavia: What are the crowds shouting now?
- Cassius: Habet, hoc habet!
- Vita: That means 'let us have it'.
- Magnus: We must all raise our left hands and appeal to the Emperor.
- Flavia: Some are shouting 'Mitte' to let us go.
- Cassius: Will it be 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down'?
- Vita: Will we be awarded a 'V' for Victor?



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- Flavia: Or maybe an 'M' to allow us to fight another day – and go on to the next round.
- Antius: So which is it to be folks? Will all our contestants survive this round?
- Decorus: The Emperor is standing and his thumb goes up!
- All: Yes!
- Antius: The Emperor is the referee. He's about to sit down again – yikes, he's just slipped off his chair.
- Decorus: It's the fall of the Roman Umpire!
- Antius: The gladiators may have to fight the bears with tridents and swords next.
- Decorus: I can't BEAR the suspense but now we've got to take a break.
- Antius: We'll be back to find out what happens next.
- Decorus: How will you cast your votes to decide who is this week's winner of I'm A Gladiator Get Me Out Of Here? Which one of our four contestants do you think should win The Gadiatorus Maximus Prize?
- Antius: We'll be giving you the result next week.
- Decorus: Can't we find out before then? I want to know now.
- Antius: Rome wasn't built in a day, you know. Things take time round here. You have to do things the way the Romans do. When in Rome...



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- Decorus: The Emperor has decided to present palm branches to all four contestants because they survived!
- Antius: So now it's down to viewers to choose tonight's coolest gladiator. Was it Flavia, Cassius, Vita or Magnus? It's up to YOU!
- Decorus: Just to say - if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this programme... so have we.
- Antius: Because we both hate the sight of blood.
- Decorus: Luckily we haven't seen any today...
- Antius: Yet
- Decorus: Antius...
- Antius: Yes, Decorus?
- Decorus: Don't look now but a bear has escaped and it's just behind us...
- Antius: Yikes! On that breaking news, we must leave you with the shocking picture of another bear behind. Which all goes to show **YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A ROMAN GLADIATOR... NEVER!** *(They both run off screaming)*