10-Sentence Story Challenge: Ancient Rome

Write a 10-sentence historical fiction story set in Ancient Rome.
Use the instructions below for each sentence.

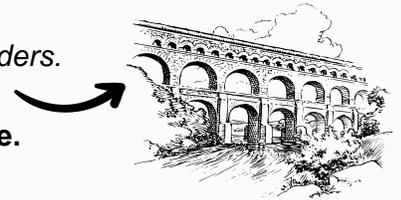**Sentence 1:** Start in **present tense**. Use **sensory language** to place the reader in Ancient Rome right now.

Example: The scent of roasted meat and wet stone fills the air as crowds press into the marketplace.

Sentence 2: Use a **simile** to describe something from the **setting** (a building, object, or crowd).

Example: The aqueduct stretches across the sky like a stone bridge to the gods.

Sentence 3: Begin with the stem: "**Long ago,…**" and switch to **past tense** as you give a bit of historical backstory.

Example: Long ago, the emperor ordered a wall built to protect the city from invaders.

Sentence 4: Introduce a character with **vivid imagery** and a **metaphor or simile.**

Example: Cassius moved through the crowd like a whisper made of iron.

Sentence 5: Write a sentence that contains **9-12 words**.

Example: He knew the Senate's silence meant something was wrong.

Sentence 6: Use **dialogue** to reveal **conflict or mystery**.

Example: "They're watching you," the woman muttered, slipping something into his hand.

Sentence 7: Begin with an **emotion** and a **dash**.

Example: Panic—sharp and sudden—raced through him like a fire.

Sentence 8: Use **anaphora** (the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of clauses or sentences).

Example: He <u>ran</u> from the guards, <u>ran</u> from the truth, <u>ran</u> from what he had done.

Sentence 9: Switch to **second person (you)** to pull the reader into the character's shoes.

Example: You slip into the shadows, heart pounding, knowing they are close.

Sentence 10: End with a **cliffhanger** and a **rhetorical question**.

Example: A hand grabs your shoulder—what if this is the end?