

1 Read texts A, B, and C. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Text A is **fiction** / **nonfiction**.
- 2 Text B is **fiction** / **nonfiction**.
- 3 Text C is **fiction** / **nonfiction**.

2 Read texts A, B, and C again. Decide if the sentences are **true (T)** or **false (F)**.

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| 1 Claudius was born in Rome. | T / F |
| 2 Claudius was emperor before Caligula. | T / F |
| 3 Claudius was Caligula's uncle. | T / F |
| 4 Claudius was intelligent and good-looking. | T / F |
| 5 Claudius was a very good emperor. | T / F |
| 6 Claudius' family wanted him to be emperor one day. | T / F |

Claudius, Emperor of Rome

A

Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (now that's a long name!) was born in Rome a little over 2,000 years ago. Everybody called him Claudius. And why was his name so long? Well, because most of the men in his family were emperors, that's why. His grandfather and his uncle had ruled Rome, and his father, Germanicus, had been a great military hero. Now his nephew Caligula was Emperor. It wasn't easy being Claudius, though, because he didn't look much like an emperor. He was a little bit deaf, he walked badly, and he had problems speaking clearly. His family wanted to keep him out of politics because he was embarrassing. It was a big surprise to everybody when he became emperor.

B

In 41 AD, Roman guards killed the unpopular emperor Caligula. Claudius was afraid and hid behind some curtains. When the guards found him, they made Claudius emperor. They hoped that this quiet, kind man, who wasn't ambitious, would be a better emperor than Caligula. But in his time as emperor, Claudius was very successful. His army won wars in France and Germany, he went to Britain, and he developed trade across the empire. He helped the poor and constructed roads and canals. Although he wasn't a powerful or intelligent man, the people of Rome loved Claudius. He was a great emperor.

Claudius heard the guards. They were shouting loudly. Were they looking for him? They had killed Caligula, his nephew, who had only been in power for four years. He knew that for sure. Maybe they were going to kill him. Where could he hide? There were some thick curtains at the far end of the room. Claudius walked slowly across the room because of his bad leg. He reached the curtains just before the guards broke down the door to the room. A few minutes later, the guards found Claudius and started to laugh. "Who is this fool?" asked one. "It's old Claudius," said the commander of the guards. "Caligula's uncle. And now he's our Emperor." The soldier went down on his knees. "All hail, Claudius," he said, "Emperor of Rome!"