Roman Numerals
(Reading Lesson 1)

Even though *Theras and His Town* takes place in ancient Greece, you will need to know your Roman numerals to be able to refer to chapter numbers. The Romans’ system of using letters to indicate numbers lasted for centuries. There are two basic differences between Roman and Arabic numerals (the type we use). First, the Romans did not have a symbol for zero; and second, numeral position within a number indicates either subtraction or addition.

Study the following charts.

### Roman Numerals from 1 to 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>XI</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>XVI</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>XII</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>XVII</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>XIII</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>XVIII</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>IX</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>XIV</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>XIX</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>XV</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Basic Roman Numerals from 1 to 1000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>VIII</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>LX</th>
<th>60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>IX</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>LXX</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>LXXX</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>XC</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>XL</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Guidelines for Working with Roman Numerals

- Numbers are written from left to right with the largest numeral first. For example, the number 70 is written as LXX. L (50) is placed in front of XX (20). 50 + 20 = 70.

- A letter or numeral is not used more than three times. For instance, the number 8 is written with three Is, VIII. However, the number 9 is not VIII.

- A smaller letter or numeral placed before a larger one indicates subtraction. For example, the number 4 is written as IV, meaning 5 minus 1.

- A smaller letter or numeral placed after a larger one indicates addition. For example, the number 6 is written as VI, meaning 5 plus 1.
Reading Activity 1

After you have studied the charts and guidelines, test your knowledge by writing the equivalent numbers in the blanks. Try not to refer to the charts.

Fill in the blanks with the correct Arabic numeral.

1. XVI ____
2. IX ____
3. DLV ____
4. LXXI ____
5. CCCXXXII ____
6. MDCCLXXVI ____
7. XLIV ____
8. XXXIX ____

Fill in the blanks with the correct Roman numeral.

9. 41 ____
10. 2010 ____
11. 15 ____
12. 34 ____
13. 99 ____
14. 21 ____
15. 673 ____
16. 1984 ____

Optional Activity. Write the answers as Roman numerals first and then Arabic numerals.

17. X + IV = ________________________ or ________________________
18. V + V = ________________________ or ________________________
19. IX + IX = ________________________ or ________________________
20. VII + IX = ________________________ or ________________________
21. LXX + XX = ________________________ or ________________________
22. C − XL = ________________________ or ________________________
23. CLX − XV = ________________________ or ________________________
24. XIV − II = ________________________ or ________________________
25. CDXL − XXX = ________________________ or ________________________