

Armchair Adventures: A Join-in Story Podcast For Kids

A Roman Invasion Adventure!

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventure's theme

Connie: Ey up chuck!, afternoon!, or good evening wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of this episode's special guest Adventurers are...

Adventurers: Grace

Aiden

Ava

Charlie

Imogen

Leo

Connor

Ella-May

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Adventurers: Hi Connie!

Connie: You too can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures fanclub on patreon. For more info, simply head to the Armchair Adventures website, that's [www dot armchair dash adventures dot co dot uk](http://www.armchairdashadventures.co.uk), and click on the Adventurer fan club page!

Scene 1

Music: Short Armchair Adventure's theme underscoring to transition

Connie: Hello Adventurers, I'm writing my first play in drama class at school – how cool is that! But it has to be about The Roman Empire invading Ancient Britain... and I've not thought about that since primary school!

Pluuuus, I've got so much other homework to do I don't think I'm going to have time to do all research I need...

(getting an idea) Oh, I wonder if my Uncle Chris and his community theatre company might be up for helping me out with some facts...I'm sure they have done tons of Roman plays!

SFX phone ringing

Unc. Chris: Hello, Uncle Chris act-tor and drama lama ding dong at your service, how can I help?

Connie: Hello Uncle Chris, it's Connie ...I'm after a bit of help if that's ok...

Unc. Chris: Of course, Always happy to help out my favourite niece!

Connie: But aren't I your only niece...

Unc. Chris: Yep! So, what's going on?

Connie: I have to write a play about the Romans in Britain, and I can't remember anything about it!

There's loads of information that has to be in it. Which Roman emperor invaded successfully? Did the Britons put up a fight? And what the Romans brought to ancient Briton.

Is there any way you and your community theatre company could help me out?

Unc. Chris: No problem, Connie...we've performed in a few amphitheatres in our time!

Connie: Amphitheatres? What are they?

Unc. Chris: Well, amphitheatre means 'theatre all around' they are big circular buildings in the open air, a bit like football stadiums today.

Here ancient romans would see gladiators fighting...

SFX gladiators fighting, a crowd cheering, maybe a comical dying sound.

Watch plays...

SFX actors and applause

And even sporting events like the modern-day Olympics!

SFX sports sounds

Often the emperor, the person in charge of the empire, would be there and everybody would want to impress them!

Connie: Well, they must have been pretty important then.

Unc. Chris: Absolutely Connie- they had the power to say if you lived or died with a simple thumbs up or thumbs down!

Connie: Eek, I'm glad my play isn't being performed for a Roman Emperor then.

Unc. Chris: I'll bet! Well leave it with us Connie, we'll get you everything you need.

Connie: Thanks Uncle Chris!

Unc Chris: No problem, goodbye Connie.

SFX Phone hanging up.

I'd better get my community theatre company on the line and let them know we need to get our roman on...

Because with an Armchair Adventure Adventurers, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

Unc. Chris: Salve everyone!

Chris: Salve?

Paul: What does that mean Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: It's how ancient romans greeted each other! They spoke a language called Latin.

Com company say Salve- oh hello uncle chris etc.

Unc. Chris: Can you say hello like an ancient roman, adventurers? Salve!

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Salve

Julia: But why are you speaking in Latin?

Unc. Chris: Well, Connie needs our help writing a play about the Roman Invasion of Britain. That was when ancient romans from Italy decided to come to Britan and take over.

SFX Brief blast of roman era war sounds

John: The Romans ruled a lot of the world at the time.

Dan: That's why it's called the roman empire.

Chris: An empire means a single person ruled over many countries.

Katie: Oh that's why they are called emperors!

John: Exactly. And the romans wanted to take over Briton for all our natural resources.

Unc. Chris: That means useful things that are found in the ground

Louise: Like gold, tin and iron.

SFX mining sounds, clinking of pickaxes.

Habib: But the roman emperors also wanted to take over Ancient Briton so they could show off about it!

Unc. Chris: Pretend to be a bossy emperor showing off about your empire adventurers!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Oh, look at all my land!

Adventurer: I'm so important!

Adventurer: Everyone has to do as I say... or else!

Adventurer: I'm the best and I'm in charge.

Unc. Chris: Great impressions Adventurers.

So, Connie needs to know information like who successfully invaded Briton...

Dan: I know Julius Ceaser failed twice.

SFX wah wah wahhhh (classic looser sound effect)

John: It was emperor Claudius who ended up doing it

Unc. Chris: And if the Britons put up a fight...

Katie: Well Queen Boudicca almost turfed out the romans!

Unc. Chris: And what the romans brought to Britain...

Dan: Oh Like, roads and towns with big buildings.

Unc. Chris: Exactly so I'm taking you on Armchair adventure to a Roman amphitheatre, to see what we can find out for Connie!

Com. Theatre all excited to go.

Unc. Chris: A journey of the imagination here we come!

Music: Short Armchair Adventure's theme underscoring to transition

SFX A roman amphitheatre atmosphere, crowds, maybe music faint in background.

Unc. Chris: Right, everyone welcome to the amphitheatre...
Julia: Oh, it's got seats all around.
John: So, everybody can see what's happening in the middle.
Dan: It's huge, look at all the stone seats.
Chris: It goes very high up.
Gary: I wouldn't fancy walking to my seat if it was at the top!

Com. Theatre all agree, one calls him lazy.

Katie: But we have a great view from where we are.
Louise: The sandy stage is right in front of us.
Habib: Beautiful marble pillars either side of us.
Dan: And look at all this food and fine furniture.
Louise: There's even curtains to keep the sun out.
Unc. Chris: I'd say they were the best seats in the house!

Com. Theatre all agree.

Gary: And look at all these people.
Habib: There are thousands of them in the crowd
Katie: Waiting for a good show!
Unc. Chris: Ooooh yeah...Errm and why are they all staring at us like that? All silent and expectant? Bit awkward... I'll just give them a wave shall I? Hi everyone!

SFX A roaring cheer from the crowd

Unc. Chris: Well, they seemed to like that! I wonder when the show will start?
John: Hang on a minute...are we in the cubiculum?!
Unc. Chris: Cubic-u-wotzit now?
John: The emperors private viewing area...
Chris: I think they think you're the emperor Uncle Chris!
Unc. Chris: Uh oh...
Katie: They'll expect you to have put a show together for them!
Unc. Chris: Double uh oh...we haven't prepared anything!

SFX Dun dun dunnnn...

Julia: What are we going to do?

Unc. Chris: We're a theatre company remember it's time to improvise! Pass me that toga and sandals...

SFX getting his costume on

John: Hang on! you're going to pretend to be the emperor Uncle Chris?

Unc. Chris: How hard can it be!

Gary: Well, you'll need your crown of laurel leaves then too, Emperor Uncle Chris

Unc. Chris: Thank you!

SFX silly sound of putting the crown on

Unc. Chris: Ta da!

Paul: And what will the show be?

Dan: We still need the facts for Connie remember...

Unc. Chris: Hmm, good point...(thinking then gets the idea) Oh I know what to do! Let's pit ancient Rome against ancient Briton in a competition to impress.... fanfare please...

SFX Fanfare

Welcome all my fellow subjects! Today Boudicca, British queen of the Iceni tribe and emperor Claudius of Rome will battle it out in a series of challenges for our entertainment!

SFX Crowd cheer

The winner of which will help me, Emperor Unculus Christo-fius Nero the 1st, decide once and for all who deserves to rule ancient Briton!

SFX Crowd cheer that fades into background for the following aside with the com. Theatre company.

John: You can't do that Uncle Chris!

Habib: History has happened.

Chris: You don't just get to decide it from a game, you made up!

Unc. Chris: Silence! You're forgetting one thing everyone...I am no longer Uncle Chris...I am the emperor of Rome, and emperors do whatever they like!

Chris: (aside) Uh oh he's in role again...

Paul: (aside) We better keep an eye on things...

Com. Theatre all agree.

Unc. Chris: Welcome one and all to The Uncle Chris-victus games!

SFX Fanfare crowd cheers

In the British corner, we have the lean, the mean, the painted in...well blue, it's the warrior queen of the Icenii Tribe- QUEEN BOUDICCA!

SFX Boudicca's footsteps walking out into the sand

Bou: My name means victory no one will beat me! Grrrr!

SFX Cheers and Boos

Unc. Chris: In the Roman corner we have the man who wasn't supposed to be emperor then was, riding into the amphitheatre on his elephant, the ruthless invader of ancient Briton, Emperor Claudius!

SFX elephant footsteps walking out into the sand.

Claudius: I may have been a second choice for the throne, but unlike Julius Caesar and his two failed invasions – I get the job done! Come on Nelly

SFX Elephant trumpet then cheers and Boos

Unc. Chris: Who are you supporting to win adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I'm sticking with Boudicca she looks tough!

Adventurer: I like winning so I'm sticking with Rome!

Adventurer: How do you know they will win?

Adventurer: Because it was ages ago! I already know

Adventurer: Oh yeah

Adventurer: Rome's a bit more civilised.

Adventurer: I'm with team Boudicca, girl power!

Adventurers: Yeaaaahhh!

Unc Chris: Contestants are you ready for your first Challenge?

Bou: E yarr, what's with all this challenge business, we normally just chop each other to bits!

Claudius: As do we, only in a much more organised manner than this heathen, I don't know anything about all this challenge nonsense...

SFX Claud and Bou going at each other to underscore until Chris line

Unc. Chris: Well...now...errmm break it up you two...
Katie: Uh oh, this is going to get bloody!
Paul: Let's split up and help them out before they kill each other!
Louise: Good idea
Dan: We'll never get the facts for Connies play out of them if they carry on like this!
Chris: Never fear, we are here to support you in the games! If you're on team Claudius come with me!
John: And team Boudicca come with me!

Com theatre company getting into teams- I'll join you Boudicca etc.

Unc. Chris: Exactly! Silence! I mean great! (aside) thanks for your help gang!
Now, Challenge one is 'The offerings'.

SFX fanfare

In order to convince me you'd be a better ruler of ancient Briton what three offerings can you give to impress me!

You have a minute to discuss it in your teams!

SFX Cheers from the crowd and ticking clock

Claudius: hmph people usually make offerings to me.
Bou: An' me.
John: Never mind that Boudicca, I'm sure there are lots of great things about ancient Britain you could offer up?
Chris: And the same for you about Rome Claudius...
Bou: Well horses are sacred to us and the Iceni, so a good strong oorse for one, we breed the best war horses this side of tir na nog!
Louise: where's tir na nog?
Bou: The afterlife, us Ancient Britons believed in a land of youth, joy and health after we leave this place...
Katie: Great what else?
Bou: Our beautiful mud huts made with what mother earth gives us...
Dan: That sounds eerm lovely...
Bou: Oh and you may have noticed I smell gorgeous...not like that roman stinker over there, because we invented soap!

Julia: Well I never!

Claudius: How dare you! Who would want to wash away the smell of victory!

Unc. Chris: What have you to offer then Claudius?

Habib: What are you thinking emperor?

Claudius: Paved, Straight roads for starters.

Louise: Well they were a big hit, we still use them in 2024.

Claudius: Precisely, and forget about all those silly little mud dwellings, we invented concrete, so good luck to her getting past our forts of stone!

Chris: (aside) Better not mention, the three roman cities she burns to the ground then...

Gary: (aside) Good idea...

Claudius: However, the main gift would be peace and organisation! Ancient Briton is full of warring tribes, and we would bring everyone together, after a little blood shed of course...

Paul: They love a bit of fighting this lot...

SFX Fanfare

Unc. Chris: Time is up! Please present your offerings!

Bou: I'll go first! We offer, the finest horses, our unrivalled mud hut homes and forts, and last but not least soap! What more could Briton need!

SFX Cheers from the crowd

Unc. Chris: And team Rome?

Claudius: Our superior offerings are, straight paved roads, forts and towns built of stone, using concrete and of course some peace and organisation to this raggle taggle nation!

SFX Cheers from the crowd

Unc. Chris: Don't cheer too much, he's going to invent tax to pay for all that...

SFX Boos

Very good, lets proceed, I can't possibly make this decision on an empty stomach. Food is a big part of a ruling nation. Challenge Two: Make me a meal! Best food wins!

SFX Fanfare

Bou: Right then team let's get cooking, dig me a hole in the ground, we're making a stew!

Dan: You cooked in the ground?

Bou: That we did, put your back into it, I'm going to hunt a wild boar, and if that cooking holes not dug by the time I get back, maybe I'll put you lot in it...

Julia: (a bit frightened) You...eat...people...

Bou: Only the tasty ones...hahahah come here boar arrrghh!

SFX boar squealing and running off with Boudicca shouting.

John: Quick, help us dig this hole adventurers, before she gets back!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: You don't have to ask me twice!

Adventurer: I don't want to be ancient British stew

Adventurer: Get digging everyone!

Bou: Well-done you lot, now chuck this boar in, a few o' these hazelnuts I found in me hair...

SFX all the stuff going into the stew pot

Bou: Ere, throw a few of them nettles in an all.

Katie: Nettles?!

Bou: Yeah, gotta get yer greens in! get picking!

SFX Picking nettles

Com. Theatre company picking nettles.

John: Owww that one got me! I wonder how the others are getting on...

Followed by Claudius sulking

Paul: Please Claudius I know you don't normally cook for yourself...

Claudius: Yes, we have slaves for that sort of thing, lovely ancient British ones...

Habib: But we need your help...

Gary: We don't know what romans eat!

Claudius: Ugh. Very well...for starters we eat three times a day- lentaculum, prandium and cena

Habib: Eh? Are they ingredients?

Claudius: (patronising) Ugh no...breakfast lunch and dinner...

Gary: More roman organisation at work. We still eat like that today!

Claudius: Indeed, so rather a lot of ingredients, you better get to the roman markets- yet another thing these Britons need- a Highstreet!

SFX roman market

Now let's see, We need fish, figs, fresh fruit, spiced wine, cold cut meats, jars for the stew, nice olive oil, grain for the pizza bread, tomatoes fresh, good, have you got everything? You had better take a bag, right fine.

promo swap

Unc. Chris: It seems we are going to be some time before we eat anything, so let's pause our journey of the imagination, and hear about another podcast I think you might like.

SFX Ad plays

Unc. Chris: Now let's get back to our journey of the imagination and hopefully the bottom of Claudius's shopping list!

promo swap ends

SFX roman market

Chris: Ok adventurers, help us get what we need at the market! I hope we can carry it all!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I can't carry all this...

Adventurer: My arms aren't big enough

Adventurer: I'm going to drop it! Heeeeelp!

Paul: Are we nearly back at the amphitheatre?

Julia: I can't carry all this much longer!

Chris: Nor me...I think I'm gonna drop it...waaaahhh!

SFX Cartoon like wobbling and slipping and dropping type sound with crashing at the end.

Katie: Were here now! Let me help you pick all that up and let's get inside Chris.

Chris: Thanks Katie...

SFX Amphitheatre atmosphere

Paul: Right we've got all your stuff Claud

Claudius: -ius..Claudius, thank you very much! Great now you better get cooking...

Com. Theatre company grumbling

SFX Cooking sounds

Unc. Chris: Something smells delightful! Please present your second challenge feasts!

SFX fanfare

Bou: Ere you go, the best British stew, cooked in the ground and served to you in a bowl made of ancient Briton's finest bone China...a humans skull! Shame to let good bones go to waste!

Unc. Chris: (unsure) Mmmm how...gruesome...(a small sip) what's that stinging taste?

Julia: That will be the nettles Uncle Chris...

Unc. Chris: (fake enjoyment) mmmmmm...

SFX placing down bowl.

and team Claudius?

Claudius: What haven't we brought...here are your three meals for the day, cooked in a proper kitchen in a very *civilized* manner...

Bou: Hmph civilized! I'll give him civilized...

Unc. Chris: Oooh there's so much to enjoy...even pizza! All served on gold plates very nice...now then while I make my way through this lot...it's time for Challenge three: defences!

SFX fanfare

The ancient Scots tribes to the north are on their way to give everyone a bit of trouble!

SFX Jeering ancient Scots in the distance.

You have one minute to build something that will keep them out!
Ready steady build!

SFX trumpet

Bou: Come on you lot, this is easy, ancient Briton is covered in forests, chop em down and get building a wall...come on then trees bring it on!
Arrrghh.

Dan: Pass me an axe.
Julia: Oh no, we'll never get it done.
Louise: We need help.
John: Quick adventurers get chopping with us!

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Heave ho!
Adventurer: Pass the axe!
Adventurer: Timber!
Claudius: Now my slaves...ahem I mean *teammates*...We romans are excellent wall builders... get the stones, mix the concrete and start on a great big wall. That should do the trick...chop chop...
Paul: He's not joking! They built Hadrian's wall to stop the ancient Scots from raiding their towns...
Gary: And that's still there in our time, thousands of years later...
Habib: It's 73 miles long!
Claudius: Less chatty, chatty more buildy, buildy...The ancient Scots are almost here!

SFX Jeering ancient Scots getting closer

Chris: Quick pass the concrete!
Paul: Give us a stone over here!
Chris: We really need your help adventurers, pretend to build this huge wall with us!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Concrete coming up!
Adventurer: These rocks are heavy!
Adventurer: Oooh me back!

SFX huge tree trunk whistling through the air

Claudius: Oh what Is that dreadful sound?
Bou: It's the Ancient Scots! Stealing my trees! As soon we cut em, they're throwing them over your wall at you!

SFX huge tree trunk smashing to the ground over the wall

Claudius: Arrgh!!! Don't you toss your cabers at us!

SFX Ancient Scots laughing.

SFX fanfare

Unc. Chris: I've seen enough! And so have the crowd...

SFX crowd cheers

Unc. Chris: With defences like that, no wonder the ancient Scots won the romans in the end...

Bou/Clau: You what!

Unc. Chris: Moooving on, It's the challenge you've all been waiting for! The final round! You will go head-to-head in the ancient Celtic tradition of flyting. A poetic battle of words where you fight it out with insults rather than bloodshed! Challenge 4: The rap battle!

SFX fanfare then cheers from the crowd!

Music: Rap Battle

Boudicca:

I've burnt three roman cities to the ground.

St Albans, Colchester and London town

So off you pop, go back to Rome,

This place ain't ever gonna be your home.

Yeh, jog on Claud all alone,

This place ain't ever gonna be your home!

(laughs)

Claudius:

You peasants aren't going to tell me where to go

I'm the emperor, the conqueror, the leader of the Globe.

My army is disciplined, we march to one beat,

We're organized, civilised – we'll never see defeat.

Boudicca, I hear yeh but listen to me,

We will never ever, never ever ever, never ever ever, ever, see defeat!

Both Together:

B-R-I-T-A-I-N, Great Britain!

B-R-I-T-A-I-N x 2

Boudicca:

When you see us, and our faces painted blue

You'll run away scared you won't know what to do!

So run away now, before it's too late,

You'll be Roman ruins for goodness sake.

We're savages, ravagers, we'll turn you into sandwiches

We're not scared of you!

Arrrgghhhh!

Claudius:

We'll chop you in two, you ructatrix fool!

And that means gas bag, by the way

You see we're clever, we've built straight roads,

Markets, temples, amphitheatres for shows,

The face paint you wear, that doesn't scare us,

We fight lions, tigers and gladiators,

So off you trot, 'Little B',

Can't you see, the winner is me!

Both Together:

B-R-I-T-A-I-N, Great Britain!

B-R-I-T-A-I-N x 2

SFX Crowd cheering

Unc. Chris: (giving light applause) Incredible work team Briton and team Rome

Bou: So, who's won then, me or him?

Claudius: Don't you know anything you heathen? The emperor has to decide who wins with a thumbs up or a thumbs down...and that's usually my job humph...

Chris: That's right, but Uncle Chris there's two of them...

Unc. Chris: Not to worry Chris I'll just use both hands! Right thumb for Rome and left thumb for Briton...now SILENCE the time for judgment has arrived....

Paul: (aside) Who do you think he will pick adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: My moneys on Team Rome - the food looked amazing.

Adventurer: You can't beat Boudicca, she's tough as nails.

Adventurer: I think Rome's going to win because they've got better materials.

Adventurer: Team Boudicca, all she needs is her army.

Louise: Ooh he's lifting both hands...

Danny: The thumbs are pointing to the side

Chris: He's turning them... oh the suspense!

Katie: Hang on it looks like he's going to point them both the same way...

Paul: He has! Down! They've both lost!

SFX angry crowd

Overlap the following protests from Boudicca and Claudius

Bou: WHAT! Get lost, how do you work that one out...and whilst we are on the topic, who made you emperor

Claudius: WHAT! How very dare you, we are the clear winners! I will kill you where you stand!

Unc. Chris: SILENCE, I have made my decision. There are great things about ancient Briton and great things the romans brought along too, and you are both powerful leaders in your own rights!

Besides, you two used to get along before Rome decided to take all of Boudicca's land instead of the half she agreed to...

Bou: Well, if we've teamed up before then maybe we ought to again, and teach this 'emperor' Uncle Chris a lesson.

Claudius: Yes we aren't afraid to stab our emperors in the back in Rome either... just ask Julius Caesar ...oh wait...you can't he's dead.

Unc. Chris: Now, now there's no need for violence...

SFX Crowd getting angry too.

Bou: Come on Claudie lets get him! Arrrrgh!!

Claudius: Yes lets, charge Nelly!

SFX Elephant noise and general ruckus

Chris: I think we better get out of here Uncle Chris!

Com Theatre company all agree!

Unc. Chris: You don't have to tell me twice! Run!

Com. theatre company all running away.

SFX angry shouting of Boudicca and Claudius fading into the distance

Unc. Chris: Phew we've lost them! That was a close one, these sandals weren't made for running... At least we learnt a lot of information for Connie!

Dan: The differences between ancient Briton and Rome

Habib: What Rome brought to our country.

Katie: The buildings and the roads and defences...

Louise: Towns and markets

Julia: What they ate...

Gary: and how they ate...breakfast lunch and dinner.

Chris: And that ground hole stew was frightening!

John: How Boudicca very nearly saw the romans out of Britain

Unc. Chris: With her fierce warriors painted in blue! And I can't believe that Claudius conquered Britain on an elephant!

Com Theatre company all agree.

Unc. Chris: Well gang being an emperor is absolutely exhausting...

Katie: But you didn't do anything, we did!

Com Theatre company all protest

I think it's time we said goodbye and got all this info off to Connie, I'm pooped form all my emperoring...

Goodbye everyone!

Com Theatre say goodbye.

Goodbye adventurers!

Adventurers say goodbye.

End call now.

SFX phone down

Lovely

Connie: Thanks so much Uncle Chris! You and your Community theatre company are amazing, and a special thanks to you too adventurers for helping them out!

I've got so much good stuff here, I will have my play written in no time! See you all soon on our next adventure...

Goodbye everyone!

Music: Armchair Adventure's theme

Ian: Armchair Adventures is a Made by Mortals production. This episode was funded by the arts council England.