CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Life of St. Martin

Sulpitius Severus · *c. 397 (this English, 1894)* · *Alexander Roberts*

Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting. I had determined to keep private the little treatise on the life of St. Martin. So the preface begins, in Alexander Roberts's 1894 English (NPNF, Second Series, vol. 11). Then: Martin, then, was born at Sabaria in Pannonia, but was brought up at Ticinum. His parents were of no mean rank, but were heathens. For grades 9–12. The file also holds the three genuine Letters and the Dialogues; not the Sacred History. Trim footnote numbers. Quote Roberts.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this Martin file as Roberts's English of Sulpitius—opened by a preface to Desiderius, then by a birth at Sabaria—and as the Life plus letters and dialogues, not the Sacred History?

"Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting."
Preface to Desiderius

The hosted file is Alexander Roberts's 1894 English of Sulpitius Severus, from the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, vol. 11: On the Life of St. Martin, the three genuine Letters (including Letter 3 on Martin's death), and the Dialogues. The doubtful letters and the Sacred History are not included. Name that scope. The preface to Desiderius opens: Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting. I had determined, my like-minded brother, to keep private, and confine within the walls of my own house, the little treatise which I had written concerning the life of St. Martin. Then the Life: Martin, then, was born at Sabaria in Pannonia, but was brought up at Ticinum, which is situated in Italy. His parents were, according to the judgment of the world, of no mean rank, but were heathens. Teach that opening, for grades 9–12. Trim editorial footnote numbers ([3], [4]) from quotations. Quote Roberts, and name Sulpitius. One map cannot teach the Life, the letters, and the Dialogues at equal length.

KEY CHARACTERS

Sulpitius Severus
Who writes to Desiderius, and who wrote the little treatise on Martin's life

Martin, born at Sabaria
Brought up at Ticinum in Italy; his parents of no mean rank, but heathens, in this English

Alexander Roberts
The translator of this 1894 English; name him

HOW TO BEGIN THIS MARTIN

"Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting."
Preface

"Martin, then, was born at Sabaria"
The Life

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Greeting to Desiderius
PREFACE TO DESIDERIUS

Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting. The book begins as a letter, and a friendship, not as a later legend only.

- Keep "dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting."
- 9–12.
- Roberts's English.
- The Life follows the preface.

> *"Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting."*
> Preface to Desiderius

02
A Little Treatise, Kept Private
PREFACE TO DESIDERIUS

I had determined, my like-minded brother, to keep private, and confine within the walls of my own house, the little treatise which I had written concerning the life of St. Martin. The writing is named as a little treatise, almost withheld.

- Keep "keep private" and "little treatise."
- 9–12.
- Quote this wording.
- Name Sulpitius, and Roberts.

> *"I had determined, my like-minded brother, to keep private, and confine within the walls of my own house, the little treatise which I had written concerning the life of St. Martin. I did so"*
> Preface to Desiderius

03
Born at Sabaria, Brought Up at Ticinum
THE LIFE

Martin, then, was born at Sabaria in Pannonia, but was brought up at Ticinum, which is situated in Italy. Stop a quotation before an editorial footnote number.

- Keep "Sabaria" and "Ticinum." Trim [3] and [4].
- 9–12.
- The Life itself, after the preface.
- Quote Roberts.

> *"Martin, then, was born at Sabaria"*
> The Life

04
Of No Mean Rank, but Heathens
THE LIFE

His parents were, according to the judgment of the world, of no mean rank, but were heathens. His father was at first simply a soldier, but afterwards a military tribune. The household is named before the later holiness.

- Keep "no mean rank, but were heathens."
- 9–12.
- Quote this English.
- Later pages, and the letters, need gravity.

> *"His parents were, according to the judgment of the world, of no mean rank, but were heathens. His"*
> The Life

05
Roberts, 1894: Life, Letters, Dialogues
THE EDITION

Alexander Roberts, NPNF 2/11, 1894. The file holds the Life, the three genuine Letters, and the Dialogues—not the Sacred History. For grades 9–12. Trim footnote numbers. Quote Roberts. One map cannot teach every part at equal length.

- Name Roberts, and the file's scope.
- 9–12.
- A preface, then a birth at Sabaria.
- Not a later legend only.

> *"Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting."*
> Preface to Desiderius

A greeting, and a little treatise | A birth at Sabaria | Parents of rank, and heathen | Life, letters, and dialogues, scoped honestly | Roberts's English, named

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The preface: "Severus to his dearest brother Desiderius sendeth greeting." He had determined to keep private the little treatise on the life of St. Martin.
2. The Life: "Martin, then, was born at Sabaria" in Pannonia, and brought up at Ticinum in Italy. Trim footnote numbers from quotations. His parents were of no mean rank, but were heathens.
3. Alexander Roberts, NPNF 2/11, 1894. The file holds the Life, the three genuine Letters, and the Dialogues—not the Sacred History. For grades 9–12.
4. Quote Roberts. One map cannot teach every part at equal length.

Quotations are verbatim from the Alexander Roberts, CCEL NPNF2-11 (Sulpitius Severus, trans. Alexander Roberts), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/life-of-st-martin/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.