

During the time of Epicurus, who could read well enough to study philosophy?

Post by “Don” of July 7, 2026 at 5:43 PM

All you really needed was one literate person in a given Epicurean community to read any correspondence or texts. My understanding is that it was common to listen to texts. This is what I understand happened in early Christian communities.

Ancient Greece and Rome were also much more oral cultures, too.

Consider too that the Peripatetics literally walked around while discussing philosophy, so it is easy to imagine students and teachers in the Garden sitting around discussing and teaching and listening to lectures. My understanding is that *On Nature* was a series of lectures Epicurus gave. The only writings of Aristotle are the lecture notes compiled by a student of his.