

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

Post by “DaveT” of July 11, 2026 at 1:46 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

I've heard the estimates are that we only have about 1-5% of ALL texts from the ancient world. (One source example)

Astonishing that the single copy of Lucretius was found. Another thing this made me think about was that probably the number of illiterates who learned by someone reading the texts or booklets decreased when Epicureanism moved to the Latin language of Rome. Unless they were translated into Latin, probably only the few educated elites were privy to the teachings of the Garden. Do you or anyone have knowledge of how that went in the Roman language areas?