

# OUTLINE of the *AENEID*

## General Outlines

Vergil's arrangement of the twelve books of the *Aeneid* reflects several symmetries. Once you know that, in Vergil's scheme, one book is to be compared with another, or that several books are to be clustered and contrasted with several others, the difficult and wonderful art of the poem will begin to unfold before you.

The **FIRST** and most basic grouping of the twelve books of the *Aeneid* is the distinction between an "Odyssean" half and an "Iliadic" half, two groups of six books corresponding to, somewhat modeled upon, and evocative of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* respectively:

### Odyssean

Book 1: Storm, landing at Carthage  
Book 2: Fall of Troy narrated  
Book 3: Wanderings narrated  
Book 4: Story of Dido  
Book 5: Anniversary games for Anchises  
Book 6: Aeneas in the Underworld

### Iliadic

Book 7: Landing in Latium  
Book 8: Evander's Pallanteum; Shield  
Book 9: War; Nisus & Euryalus  
Book 10: War; death of Pallas  
Book 11: War; Mezentius, Camilla  
Book 12: War; Turnus

A **SECOND** grouping links books in the respective halves of the poem:

### Odyssean

#### *Book 1*

##### **Introduction**

Juno and Storm  
Arrival in a strange land  
Trojans already known  
Ilioneus speaks for Aeneas  
Omens and prophecies aid the reception  
Juno arouses storm with aid of Aeolus  
Venus prevails over Juno  
Movement of books: misery to happiness

#### *Book 2*

##### **Destruction of Troy**

Story of Carthage interrupted  
Greeks destroy  
Trojans suffer from Greek  
Helplessness of aged Priam  
Aeneas centre of stage  
Ascanius: fire about head, comet  
Aeneas carries on his shoulder his father  
(symbol of past)

### Iliadic

#### *Book 7*

##### **Introduction**

Juno and war  
Arrival in a strange land  
Trojans already known  
Ilioneus speaks for Aeneas  
Omens and prophecies aid the reception  
Juno arouses war with aid of Allecto  
Juno prevails over Venus  
Movement of books: happiness to misery

#### *Book 8*

##### **Birth of Rome**

Story of Trojan camp interrupted  
Greeks help to found  
Trojans profit from Greeks  
Helplessness of aged Evander  
Aeneas centre of stage  
Augustus: fire about head, comet  
Aeneas carries on his shoulder his shield  
(symbolic of future)

**Book 3**

Interlude (of wandering)

Aeneas has a minor role

Anchises important

Helenus and Adromache (joyful episode)

Escape from danger: Cyclops, Scylla, Charbydis

**Book 4****Tragedy of Love**

Venus and Juno (agreement)

Inner conflict of Aeneas

Affection yields to duty

Guilt of Dido: results in death

Turning point: Aeneas to depart; effect on Dido

Suicide of Dido, who cannot live without Aeneas

**Book 5**

Lessening of tension: games

Funeral games

Aeneas quiets disputes

Increase of tension: burning of the ships

Death of Parlinurus

**Book 6****The Future Revealed**

Aeneas receives his commission

Dramatic progression: delays and suspense, climaxed by revelation of Rome's destiny

Anchises reveals later Roman history

Death of Marcellus consecrates the New Order

**Book 9**

Interlude (at Trojan camp)

Aeneas absent

Ascanius important

Nisus and Euryalus (tragic episode)

Escape from danger: Turnus in the Trojan camp

**Book 10**

**Tragedy of War:** Pallas; Lausus & Mezentius

Venus and Juno (conflict)

Outer conflict of Aeneas

Pity yields to justice

Guilt of Turnus: leads to death in Book XII

Turning point: death of Pallas; effect on

Aeneas

Death Mezentius, who cannot live without

Lausus

**Book 11**

Lessening of tension: truce

Burial of dead

Latinus unable to avert dissension

Increase of tension: renewal of fighting

Death of Camilla

**Book 12****The Future Assured**

Aeneas fulfills his commission

Dramatic treatment of combat: delays and suspense, climaxed by victory of Aeneas

Reconciliation of Jupiter and Juno creates later Romans

Death of Turnus seals the doom of the Old Order

A **THIRD** grouping finds a series of book-pairs (W.S. Anderson, *The Art of the Aeneid*):

Books 1 & 2: Carthage and Troy

Books 3 & 4: The Search for Home

Books 5 & 6: Sicily and Italy

Books 7 & 8: "War, a monster of two faces"

Books 9 & 10: In defeat and victory

Books 11 & 12: Turnus or Aeneas?

A **FOURTH** grouping notes three sections of the poem: opening, middle, and closing books:  
 Books 1-4: The "education" of Aeneas  
 Books 5-8: Aeneas takes command  
 Books 9-12: The conduct of the war

A **FIFTH** grouping shows four triads of books:  
 Books 1-3: The "mythic" past  
 Books 4-6: Translation from Troy to Italy  
 Books 7-9: Aeneas absent  
 Books 10-12: Aeneas the Warrior

To Roman poets, following the Hellenistic Greeks before them, numbers and symmetry were extremely important in the patterning of their verses. Although a preoccupation with this can become an absurd and esoteric study, Vergil makes clear his patterns. They mean something.

### *Aeneid* 1: Beginning of the Epic

- *Background:*
  - epic poetry: Homer & the oral tradition
  - the Homeric epic hero
  - the Vergilian epic hero
  - Rome: 100 years of civil war
  - Homer & the epic cycle, Greek tragedy, earlier Roman epic
  - Trojan War: 1184 BC; Roman civil wars 133-31 BC
  - Homer: first lines of the *Iliad* & *Odyssey*
- Note Vergil's use of Homeric elements such as epithets, similes, and speeches, but consider how differently he uses them. Concentrate on the first appearances of such devices, and note their significance. (Numbers refer to lines in the Mandelbaum translation.)

#### Epithets of Aeneas

pious Aeneas  
 (307,431,534)  
 great-hearted (361)  
 goddess-born (862)  
 father Aeneas (977)  
 Trojan Aeneas (837)

#### Epithets of Dido

ignorant of destiny (422)  
 unhappy Dido (488)  
 Sidonian Dido (632)  
 lovely-bodied Dido (700)  
 Queen (735)  
 luckless Dido (933,1043)

1-50: Introduction  
 51: Juno  
 75: The Storm  
 131: First mention & view of Aeneas  
 177: Neptune  
 209: First Simile  
 251: Aeneas' first act  
 276: Aeneas' first speech  
 307: Aeneas' first epithet

312: Jupiter & Venus  
422: Dido's first epithet  
444: Aeneas & Venus  
484: Venus: story of Dido  
579: Aeneas' reproach  
611: Second simile  
625: Temple of Juno  
698: First view of Dido  
733: Speech of Ilioneus  
791: Speech of Dido  
825: Aeneas revealed  
858: Speech of Dido  
915: Cupid & fire  
1019: Dido's prayer  
Ending: "tell us all things/from the first beginning"

### *Aeneid 2: Aeneas Narrates for Dido the Fall of Troy*

"At this, indeed, I saw all Ilium/sink down into fires"

- The actual destruction of Troy is not described in Homer's *Iliad* or *Odyssey*, and in fact occurs after the action of the *Iliad* and before the *Odyssey*.
- Epic cycle; *Iliu Persis*  
Honor & glory in Greek epic; Vergil's Roman variation  
Tradition, from Greek legend, of Aeneas as *pius*
- Note two recurrent motifs: the image of fire, and the relations between fathers and sons.  
Especially note (at least) three sorts of fire in Book 2: destructive fire, the sacred fire of the hearth, and the "fire" of rage on heart & mind.
- Note all the names for Troy: Ilium, Pergamus.  
Note all the names for Trojans: Dardans, Phrygians, Teucrians.  
Note all the names for Greeks: Danaans, Dolopians, Myrmidons, Achaeans.
- Note important characters: Sinon, Laocoon, Ulysses (the Ithacan), Priam, Hecuba, Hector, Polites, Cassandra, Pyrrus/Neoptolemus, Helen, Anchises, Aeneas, Ascanius/Iulus, Creusa

23: The Wooden Horse: "some trickery is here"

56: Laocoön

81: Sinon's story: breaks off story 141

205: Priam

214: Broken & false oath

233: Ulysses, "inventor of impieties"

257: Story of the Wooden Horse

281: Death of Laocoön, "priest of Neptune"

296: Snakes & fire

341: Cassandra

371: Aeneas dreams of Hector: Hector's speech

408: Aeneas & the battle  
 413: Simile: Aeneas like a shepherd watching the fires  
 428: Aeneas the unheeding: "insane, I seize my weapons."  
 481: Simile: wolves & cubs  
 510: Simile: Androgeos & the snake; Simile: the hurricane  
 598: Aeneas at Priam's palace  
 627: Pyrrus; the snake simile & fire imagery  
 655: Perverted pietas: "Pyrrus,/His father's force within him"  
 661: Simile: the Greeks like a river  
 680-750: The story of Priam  
 694: Simile: the Trojan women like doves  
 707: Polites , son of Priam ; Pyrrus, son of Achilles  
 714: "Polites falls before his parents' eyes"  
 734: "[Achilles] my father, just as old as Priam"  
 751: Aeneas' realization: "my dear father, just as old as Priam"  
 762-790: Aeneas sees Helen: "in my mind a fire was burning"  
 793: Aeneas & Venus  
 817: Venus removes the mist which cloaks mortal eyes  
 825: The gods destroying Troy: Neptune (825), Juno (828), Pallas/Athena/Minerva (830),  
 Jupiter/the father (834)  
 837: Venus' promise  
 844: Simile: woodsmen destroy a tree  
 856: Aeneas at home  
 891: To Anchises: "could such unholiness fall from a father' lip?"  
 920: An omen: fire on Ascanians/Iulus  
 938: An omen: thunder  
 949-984: Aeneas & Anchises; Anchises accepts the omens  
 989: Loss of Creusa  
 1009: Aeneas returns to the city  
 1040: Creusia's prophesy; "farewell, and love the son we share"  
 1066: Futile embrace  
 Ending: "Then I gave way, and, lifting up my father, made for the mountains"

### ***Aeneid* 3: Troy to Sicily: Wanderings, Prophecies, False Starts**

- The third book is framed by Anchises, who is really the Trojan leader at its beginning, and who dies at its end. Aeneas receives several prophecies in this book, and visits several places, even attempting to establish premature settlements. This book ends two books of narration by Aeneas, and the first quarter of the poem, "the 'mythic' past".
- The book has three main sections:
  - To Buthrotum (1-379)
  - At Buthrotum(380-659)
  - To Sicily (660-926)

Characters

Polydorus  
 Harpies  
 Celaeno  
 Helenus  
 Andromache  
 Astyniax  
 Polyphemus the Cyclops  
 Sybil at Cumae  
 Enceladus  
 Achaemenides

Places

Aeneadae in Thrace  
 Island of Delos (Ortygia)  
 Island of Crete  
 Hesperia (Italy)  
 Strophades (Harpies' home)  
 Leucata (Actium)  
 Buthrotum (Little Troy)  
 Cumae  
 Scylla and Charybdis  
 Mt. Aetna in Sicily  
 Drepanum in Sicily

- 1-18: Introduction, pietas, Anchises leads  
 23: First settlement: Aeneadae in Thrace  
 35: Bad omens: blood-dripping roots: Polydorus' story  
 96: Delos, island of Apollo  
 125: Prophecy: seek out your ancient mother  
 134: Anchises interprets: Crete  
 177: Second settlement: Pergamum in Crete  
 185: Pestilence  
 186: Anchises' advice: return to Delos (Ortygia)  
 196: Prophecy: statues speak to Aeneas in his sleep  
 240: Anchises interprets: Cassandra had so prophesied  
 254: Storm and four days drifting  
 275: Strophades, the island of the Harpies  
 314: Battle with the Harpies & prophecy: eating of the tables  
 341: Anchises prays  
 355: Third settlement: Leucata (Actium) & games (one year)  
 380: Buthrotum: Helenus and Andromache  
 417: Andromache's story  
 453: "As I advance,/I see a little Troy, a Pergamus/that mimes the great one."  
 484: Helenus' prophecy (restricted by Juno)  
 526: "conceal your head beneath a purple mantle."  
 548: Scylla & Charybdis  
 571: "This more than anything...adore the power of mighty Juno"  
 576: Consult the Sybil at Cumae  
 607: Gifts, supplies, weapons  
 628: Andromache's gifts; Ascanius reminds her of Astyanax  
 642: 'Your fate is here, then live it happily./But we are called from one fate to another.'  
 684: Italy sighted; Anchises sacrifices  
 699: Omen: four white horses grazing  
 701: Anchises interprets: war, yet hope for peace  
 712: Sacrifices to Juno  
 717: Anchises sights Charybdis

741: Landing at Sicily ("the beaches of the Cyclops")  
750: The story of Aetna (Enceladus)  
764: The story of Achaemenides  
801: The story of Polyphemus the Cyclops (compare *Odyssey* 9)  
915: Drepanum; death of Anchises

#### *Aeneid* 4: The Story of Dido

- The fourth book is the shortest of the entire poem. With its close, the first "act" (the first third) of the poem is complete. Dido is the first of several victims of Aeneas and his fate.
- Note the imagery of fire and hunting.
- Characters: Dido (Elissa), Anna (Dido's sister), Sychaeus (Dido's dead husband), Iarbas the Gaetolian, Mercury, Pygmalion (Dido's brother), Barce (Sychaeus' nurse), Iris (goddess of the rainbow)
- Note the tripartite structure of Book 4:
  - 1-395: Beginning of the affair
  - 396-695: Quarrel and alienation
  - 696-971: Aeneas' departure & Dido's suicide

1-118: *Dido in love*

1: Abrupt introduction; Dido: secret flame

9: Anna

16: "Were it not my sure, immovable decision not/ to marry"

27: Dido's oath

38-73: Anna's speech: "How can you struggle now against a love...so acceptable?"

74: Sacrifices

80: especially to Juno, guardian of marriage

90: "Unhappy Dido burns"

92: Simile: Dido like a wounded deer

119-171: *Juno & Venus*

136: "Let Dido serve a Phrygian husband"

172: The Hunt

190: Simile: Aeneas like Apollo

212: The Storm: "That day was her first day of death & ruin"

229: Rumor

263: Iarbas the Gaetolian

293: Jove sends Mercury

346: [who] "sees Aeneas founding fortresses/and fashioning new houses"

353: Speech of Mercury

373: Aeneas decides to leave

396-545: *The Quarrel*

403: Simile: Dido like a Bacchante

410: Speech of Dido to Aeneas

446: Speech of Aeneas: "I am not furtive, I have never held/the wedding torches as a husband."

492: " It is not/my own free will that leads to Italy."  
 497: Second speech of Dido and curse  
 536: Aeneas' grief  
 551: Simile: The Trojans like ants  
 571: Speech of Dido to Anna  
 595: "I only ask/ for empty time, a rest and truce for all this frenzy."  
 610: Simile: Aeneas like an immovable oak tree  
 641: Wandering Dido; Simile: Dido like Pentheus or Orestes  
 654: Dido's secret plan; The Pyre  
 723: Dido's sleepless night  
 768: Mercury visits Aeneas in his sleep  
 837: Dido's curse  
 868: "Let them and their sons' sons learn what is war."  
 888-971: *Dido's death*

### *Aeneid 5: Anniversary Games for Anchises in Sicily*

- Book 5 is dominated by anniversary games for Anchises, comprising a regatta, foot race, archery, boxing, and a parade. This episode is reminiscent of the funeral games for Patroclus in *Iliad 23*, presided over by Achilles, and the games in *Odyssey 8*, in which Odysseus competes.
- A quieter book, placed between the two intense narratives of Books 4 and 6, it is critical in showing the development of Aeneas' character and his status as a leader. Completely demoralized at the outset, as the Trojans leave Carthage, his qualities are demonstrated as he directs the games. Yet, the near-disaster of the burning of the ships severely tests him. This is the last book that takes place outside of the Italian peninsula.
- Note the attention lavished on individual Trojans, many of whom carry family names, prominent in Rome. Some, especially Nisus and Euryalus in Book 9, will figure prominently later in the poem. Note especially Palinurus, who opens Book 5 in virtual command of the fleet, and closes it with his dedication to Aeneas and his death, while Aeneas, grieving, symbolically takes over control of the ship & fleet. Palinurus, like Dido, is a victim of the gods, and dies mysteriously, sacrificed to Aeneas' fate.
- The Games and Participants:
  - *Regatta*: Gyas & Menoetes (" The Chimera"), Mnestheus (" The Shark") Cloanthus ("The Scylla"), Sergestus ("The Centaur")
  - *Footrace*: Nisus & Euryalus and others
  - *Boxing*: Dares, Entellus
  - *Archery*: Hipocoon, Mnestheus, Eurytion, Acestes
  - *Troy Parade*: Priam, Eurytion, Iulus

10: A third storm drives them toward Drepanum in Sicily  
 15: Aeneas & Palinurus  
 99: Rites at Anchises' tomb  
 122: Simile: the snake like a rainbow  
 156-377: *Regatta*  
 193: Simile: the ships like chariots racing

280: Simile: Mnestheus' ship like a dove  
360: Simile: Sergestus' ship like a snake run-over  
378-477: *Footrace*  
429: Nisus slips in sacrificial blood  
478-641: *Boxing*  
488: Dares  
512: Acestes urges on Enthellus  
613: Aeneas stops the match: "Poor man, what madness has possessed your mind?"  
625: Entellus' prize & offering  
642-715: *Archery*  
682: Acestes' flaming arrow  
716-794: *The Troy Parade*  
795-922: Juno, Iris; the Trojan Women burn the ships  
879: Ascanius  
903: Aeneas' dismay  
950: Anchises' image appears: "obey the excellent advice old Nautes gives"  
961: Anchises' prophecy  
1023: The Trojans set sail  
1026: Venus & Neptune  
1077: "One life shall be enough instead of many"  
1103: Palinurus and the god Sleep  
1150: Aeneas' ironic closing words: "O Palinurus, too trustful of the tranquil sky & sea, you will lie naked on an unknown shore."

### *Aeneid* 6: Italy & the Underworld

- Vergil's Book 6 has its counterpart in Homer's *Odyssey* trip to the Underworld, here he encounters a young comrade-in-arms recently dead, tries in vain to embrace his mother's shade, and sees a procession of mythological personages as well as his Greek companions killed at Troy during their homecomings.
- The description of Vergil's Underworld, not always consistent in its parts and its conception, includes two passages extremely important for the *Aeneid* as a whole: Anchises' explanation of reincarnation and the soul's progress, and the long pageant of Roman history still to come.
- This book shares with *Aeneid* 2 great descriptive power, but is full of mystery. Note both the entrance (The Golden Bough) and exit (Twin Gates of Sleep) to the Underworld are magical and enigmatic.
- Although it contains final glimpses of Aeneas' Trojan past and his last attempt to communicate with Dido, Book 6, in preparation for the coming wars that lead up to the founding of Rome, emphasizes the future. This is the first part of the poem to take place on the Italian mainland, and Vergil invests it with a completely Roman feeling, in its identification of well-known places named after characters (Misenus, Palinurus), as well as its invocation of both distant and recent Roman history.

1: Landing at Cumae in Italy (Hesperia)

19: Temples of Apollo: scenes created by Daedalus

50: The Sibyl ( Deiphobe): "This is no time to gape at spectacles"; sacrifice  
 60: The Cave: "The god is here! The god."  
 77: Aeneas prays  
 109: The Sibyl possessed: "I see wars, horrid wars..."  
 143: Aeneas' prayer & request: "Take pity on one who is both a father and a son."  
 173: The Sibyl: "That is the labor, that is the task"  
 190: Description of the Golden Bough  
 207: "The lifeless body of your friend now lies..."  
 216: The story of Misenus: "He challenges the gods..."  
 275: The Golden Bough  
 285: Funeral rites for Misenus  
 316: The cave; sacrifice  
 346: "You need your courage now, you need your heart."  
 380: Vergil's invocation to the Underworld gods  
 386: Entrance to the Underworld  
 394: Charon the ferryman; recent dead buried & unburied  
 430: "Before his bones have found their rest, no one/may cross the horrid shores and the  
 hoarse waters./They wander for a hundred years and hover about these/banks until they gain  
 their entry,/to visit once again the pools they long for."  
 442-505: Palinurus  
 506: Charon's challenge  
 525: The Sibyl's answer: presentation of the Golden Bough  
 550: Cerberus barking  
 562: Three groups of untimely dead  
 593: Phoenician Dido, "dim shape among the Shadows"  
 600: Trojan Aeneas speaks: "Whom do you flee?/This is the last time that fate will let us speak."  
 630: Those renowned in war  
 651: The story of Deiphobus  
 709: The Sibyl: "The night is near, Aeneas, and we waste our time with tears."  
*Past the book's midpoint*  
 725-832: Region of punishments  
 847: Groves of Blessedness  
 859: Trojan mythological past  
 869: Patriots, priests, poets  
 898: Anchises, "studying the sons of all his sons to come."  
 922: "O father, let me hold your right hand fast,/do not withdraw from my embrace." cf.  
 Creusa, 2.1068  
 931: Simile: unborn souls like bees in the meadows  
 948: "Why this wild longing for the light of earth?"  
 956: Anchises: Reincarnation & the Soul's Progress  
 965: "They are all dulled by harmful bodies"  
 980: "First each of us much suffer his own Shade"  
 999: Anchises unfolds future Roman history (cf. Jupiter 1.354ff; Shield of Aeneas 8.810ff)  
 1008: Silvius & descendants

1026: Romulus  
 1044: Caesar Augustus  
 1061: Comparison with Hercules, a bringer of peace  
 1072: Numa Pompilius, Etruscan kings, pre-Republican Rome  
 1083: Brutus, avenger & first consul (507 BC), "unhappy man"  
 1092-1128: The Roman Republic  
 1129: "For other peoples will, I do not doubt,/still cast their bronze to breathe with softer features,/or draw out of the marble living lines,/plead causes better, trace the ways of heaven/with wands and tell the rising constellations;/but yours will be the rulership of nations,/remember, Roman, these will be your arts:/to teach the ways of peace to those you conquer,/to spare defeated peoples, tame the proud."  
 1140: The elder Marcellus, M. Claudius Marcellus, consul 222 BC  
 1148: The younger Marcellus (42 BC-23 BC) Augustus' nephew  
 1191: The Gates of Sleep

### *Aeneid* 7: Arrival at the Tiber and War

- Book 7 is a fast-paced narration of events after the Trojans reach Italy, where one prophecy is fulfilled - the eating of the tables - and another revealed by Latinus, concerning Aeneas.
- It has a new invocation, where the poet insists that the greater part of his poem, "a greater labor," is still to come. This, the first book of the Aeneid based upon Homer's Iliad, recalls the battles of the Homeric poem. It also begins the third quarter of the poem, wherein Aeneas is largely absent from the action.
- The seventh book is also an important introduction to the major characters of Books 7-12; a standard feature of epic poetry, a catalogue of warriors, comprises the last quarter of the book.
- Characters: Latinus, Allecto, Amata, Turnus, Lavinia, Almo, Galaesus

1: Arrival

5: Invocation

55: King Latinus

90: Lavinia ablaze (like Iulus in Book 3)

135: Omen: the Trojans eat their tables

190: Departure of 100 emissaries to Latinus

223: Latinus' palace

257: Latinus' speech; compare Dido's welcome in Book 1

280: Ilioneus' speech

332: Latinus & the oracle

377: Juno & Allecto

414: Juno: "I cannot keep him from the Latin kingdoms"

427: Allecto

501: Amata; simile: Amata like a top

540: Allecto arouses Turnus

603: Simile: Turnus like a boiling cauldron

628: Peasants; the sacred stag

636: "This hunting was the first cause of the troubles"  
684: War breaks out  
699: First killed: "the eldest son of Tyrrhus, the young Almo"  
705: and "Old Galaesus", a peacemaker  
772: Simile: Latinus like a rock  
792: Latinus "let the reins of rule fall slack"  
793: Juno opens the twin Gates of War  
847: Second invocation  
854: Catalogue of the Italians; Mezentius & Lausus  
1029: Turnus  
1055: Camilla

### *Aeneid* 8: The Future Site of Rome

- The eighth book suspends the narrative of gathering war and shows the human & divine forces gathering on both sides. Aeneas is at the forefront here, as Turnus had been in Book 7; he gains allies and learns much about the future of his people. The book has two major episodes: the visit to Evander's settlement, and the description of the Shield of Aeneas.
- Evander's city is a celebration of the primitive origins of Rome that the sophisticated Augustan Romans claimed to revere; we shall later see Ovid mock this primitivism. Evander & Hercules are models for Aeneas' emulation; he gains an adoptive father and an adoptive son in Evander & Pallas.
- The Shield of Aeneas, reminiscent of Achilles' divine shield in Iliad 18, does not have the microcosmic wonder of the Greek work, which depicted a city of peace and a city at war. Instead, Vulcan has arranged myth and Roman history into a wonderful design, which Aeneas literally and figuratively lifts onto his shoulders as his personal burden and glory.
- Characters: Evander, Venus, Pallas, Vulcan, Hercules, Tiberinus, Cacus, Mezentius

1: Italy rises in arms

33: Tiberinus, (the god of the river Tiber) appears to Aeneas

107: Omen: the white sow

131: Evander's settlement, Pallanteum

143: Pallas

164: Aeneas addresses Evander

198: Evander's welcome and feast

242: The story of Hercules & Cacus

411: Evander's hut: "My guest, dare to despise riches and try,/as he did, to deserve divinity."

485: Venus and Vulcan

507: Vulcan at his forge

610: Evander's story; Mezentius

702: Sacrifice; departure of Aeneas & Pallas

787: Shield of Aeneas

### *Aeneid* 9: The Trojans Besieged; the Story of Nisus & Euryalus

- The action & structure of Book 9 follow two days and an intervening night. Aeneas' absence is acutely felt, and is responsible for the two sustained episodes of personal glory: the tragic story of Nisus & Euryalus, and the exploits of Turnus. The Trojans find eerie and haunting parallels with their past: besieged once again within their ramparts, as they had been at Troy, they find a "second Achilles" in Turnus - as Turnus himself boastfully proclaims. The first sustained fighting sets in, which will intensify into the fierce war of Books 10-12.

#### *First Day: Trojans Besieged*

1: Juno sends Iris to Turnus

31: The Italians advance

75: Simile: Turnus like a wolf

87: Turnus prepares fire for the Trojan ships

102: Cybele (Mt. Berecynthus) & her ships: story & prophecy

141: Ships turned into nymphs: "go free, my ships"

160: Turnus' speech

#### *Night: Nisus & Euryalus*

232: Nisus, son of Hyrtacus; Euryalus, son of Opheltes

243: "Euryalus, is it the gods who put this fire in our minds, / or is it that each man's relentless longing becomes a god to him?"

300: Council of war: Aletes, Ascanius

374: Euryalus' mother

451: Simile: Nisus like a starving lion

486: Euryalus takes Messapus' helmet: "It fits well"

494: Volcens & his troops discover them

520-590: Death of Nisus & Euryalus

572: "He only loved too well his luckless friend"

578: Simile: Euryalus like a purple flower in death

591: The poet's address: "Fortunate pair..."

#### *Second Day: The Italians Attack*

618: The heads of Nisus & Euryalus

628: Euryalus' mother

668: The Italians attack; fighting

696: The poet invokes the Muse; Turnus' glory

703: The tower collapses

798: Italian "manliness" vs. Phrygian "effeminacy"

830: Ascanius kills Remulus Numanus

852: Apollo to Ascanius: "O son of gods & ancestor of gods"

898: Pandarus & Bitias open the gates

990: Turnus inside the Trojan camp: "Here too an Achilles can be found"

1007: Turnus' mistake

1056: Simile: Turnus attacked like a lion

1070: Jupiter, Iris, Juno

1083: Turnus leaps into the Tiber river

### *Aeneid 10: Pallas, Lausus & Mezentius*

- The tenth book comprises three sections: the first, a prologue to Aeneas' joining the battle, begins with a council of gods and ends with Aeneas and his allies landing in Latium. The second section concentrates on Pallas' death and Aeneas' frenzied (and sometimes impious) reaction. The third includes the delusion of Turnus and the deaths of Lausus & Mezentius.
- The poetry is extremely moving - and disturbing. The Tragic death of Pallas drives Aeneas to cruelty and impiety; Lausus' own conspicuous pietas touches him deeply and sobers him. Note how different are Turnus' killing of Pallas and Aeneas' killing of Lausus. Note your changing opinion of the impious Mezentius.

#### *Prologue*

1-168: Council of the gods

169: Siege of the Trojan camp

206: Aeneas on the way

230: Catalogue of Etruscan ships

305: The nymphs address Aeneas

361: Arrival of Aeneas & allies

424: Battle at the beach

*Battle (first phase): Death of Pallas*

501: Pallas rallies the Arcadians

562: Simile: Pallas' men fight like fire set by a shepherd

593: Lausus and Pallas

607: "The king of high Olympus did not let the duel"

609: Pallas and Turnus

615: "I could have wished his father here to watch"

644: Hercules grieves for Pallas

678: Turnus: "Just as he deserved, I send him Pallas"

682: The belt of Pallas

690: Vergil on Turnus

703: Aeneas goes crazy

833: Jupiter and Juno

872: Juno deludes Turnus

*Battle (second phase): Deaths of Lausus & Mezentius*

943: Mezentius fighting

1056: Mezentius impious

1087: Vergil's praise of Lausus

1092: Aeneas kills Lausus

1114: "Your loyalty (pietas) has tricked you into recklessness."

1142: Mezentius by the river

1198: Aeneas kills Mezentius

### *Aeneid 11: The Story of Camilla*

- Book 11 falls into two halves. The first half consists of the burial of Pallas, a 12-day truce, and a war council of Italians; the second is devoted to a long cavalry battle featuring the warrior-maiden Camilla.

#### *First Half*

1: Trophy of Mezentius

37: Funeral procession of Pallas

85: Simile: Pallas like a flower

130: Embassy of the Italians

181: Arrival of Pallas' body

240: Funerary rites on both sides: "a great heap of tangled butchery without a number, without honor."

278: Public outcry: Turnus should fight Aeneas in a duel.

295: Italian council of war

317: Speeches: of Venulus,

400: of Latinus,

443: Drances,

498: and Turnus

592: War breaks out

#### *Second Half*

643: Arming of Turnus

650: Simile: Turnus like a stallion

658: Turnus and Camilla plan

698: The goddess Diana tells the story of Camilla

789: Cavalry battle

854: Camilla's exploits

1040: Arruns prays...

1055: ...and strikes down Camilla

1101: "with a moan, her life, resentful, fled to Shades below"

1134: The nymph Opis kills Arruns

1187: Turnus abandons his ambush

### *Aeneid 12: The Death of Turnus*

- The longest book in the poem begins and ends with Turnus. It revolves around a duel between him and Aeneas that is postponed repeatedly. But once Juno submits to Jupiter (and Fate), the outcome is decided. Vergil depicts Turnus' death sympathetically, and the motivations and actions of Aeneas are enormously complex.

14: Turnus agrees to a duel

23: Latinus opposes

75: Amata opposes

88: Lavinia's "burning face"; simile

110: Preparations for a duel

181: Juno and Juturna, the sister of Turnus

216: Ceremonies and speeches: Aeneas...

265: ...and Latinus  
295: Picture of Turnus  
303: Juturna provokes the Italians  
330: Omen: eagle attacked  
348: Treaty broken  
423: Aeneas wounded  
437: Turnus' exploits  
520: Iapyx the surgeon  
556: Venus heals Aeneas' wound  
582: Aeneas addresses Ascanius  
623: Aeneas seeks Turnus alone  
665: "Aeneas' anger seethes"  
763: "I shall annihilate that city"  
782: "Twice the Latins...have broken treaties"  
789: Simile: shepherd smokes out bees  
796: Suicide of Amata  
839: Turnus addresses Juturna  
906: Turnus: "let me rage this madness out before I die"  
929: Duel  
990: Simile: Aeneas and Turnus like hunting dog and stag  
1049: Jupiter and Juno  
1066: "This is the end...you cannot pass beyond this point."  
1072: Juno yields  
1100: "Troy now is fallen; let her name fall too."  
1101: Jupiter to Juno: prophecy  
1149: Jupiter sends a Fury to Turnus  
1175: Juturna departs  
1178-1271: Aeneas and Turnus  
1142: Turnus entreats Aeneas  
1252: "Aeneas stood, ferocious in his armor...and he hesitated"

**Consider:** why does Aeneas hesitate to kill Turnus? Why, then, does he finally kill him? What is Aeneas' mental and emotional state at this point of the poem? What does pietas have to do with this ending? Compare the deaths of Pallas, Turnus, and Mezentius in Book 10.

## The Similes of the *Aeneid*

### Book 1

Neptune like a speaker quieting a crowd  
Carthaginians like bees working  
Dido like the goddess Diana  
Aeneas' beauty like artful ivory, marble, or silver in gold

### Book 2

Laocoon like a bull at the altar  
Aeneas like a shepherd watching flames, bewildered and unknowing  
Trojans like hungry wolves  
Androges like a man who has stepped on a snake  
Shifting cyclone  
Flood over fields  
Pyrrhus like a snake  
Greeks like a foaming river  
Trojan women like doves  
Ilium falls like an ash tree in the mountains

### Book 3

Cyclopes like tall trees

### Book 4

Dido like a deer  
Aeneas like Apollo  
Mercury like a fishing bird  
Trojans like ants on the shore  
Aeneas like a storm-tossed oak

### Book 5

Mnestheus' ship like a dove  
Sergestes' ship like a snake run over by a cart  
Entelles like a storm  
Acestes' arrow like a comet  
Troy Parade like the labyrinth in Crete

### Book 6

Golden bough like tough mistletoe  
Shades of the dead like trees or birds  
Souls awaiting birth like bees

### Book 7

Amata like a spinning top  
Turnus like a bubbling cauldron  
Battle like the sea  
Latins like a rock in the water

Men marching and singing are like swans  
Men marching are like waves of grain

### Book 8

Troubled Aeneas like light on the water  
Vulcan's love for Venus like lightning  
Pallas like Lucifer  
Aeneas' armor like a bright cloud

### Book 9

Soldiers like a river  
Turnus like a wolf at a sheepfold  
Nisus like a lion  
Euryalus like a flower in death  
Surrounded soldier like a trapped animal  
Turnus like an eagle snatching rabbit or swan  
Ground is thick with weapons like a storm  
Pandarus and Bitias like oaks by a river  
Soldiers falls like pilings thrown in the sea at Baiae

Turnus in the city like lion in a sheepfold

Turnus like a lion surrounded

### Book 10

Murmur among the gods like wind in the woods  
Ascanius like a gem  
Aeneadae like cranes  
Aeneas like a comet  
Stalemated battle like contending winds  
Pallas enflames others like fires set by a shepherd  
Turnus approaches Pallas like a lion approaching a bull  
Aeneas like hundred-handed Aegaeon  
Mezentius like a rock  
Mezentius like a boar  
Mezentius like a lion before a sheepfold  
Mezentius like Orion  
Aeneas like a plowman; a farmer; a traveller waiting for rain to stop

### Book 11

The dead Pallas like a flower  
Latinus' council murmurs like a rock midstream

Clamor in Rutulian camp like birds in the trees

Turnus like a horse freed

Italians like the sea ebbing

Camilla and her attendants like Thracian Amazons

Camilla like a hawk with a dove

Tarchon and Venulus like eagle and snake airborne, fighting

Arruns like a wolf after killing

### **Book 12**

Turnus roars like a wounded Carthaginian lion

Lavinia blushes like ivory stained red

Turnus like a bull practicing for battle

Turnus like the god Mars raging in Thrace

Battle-lines give way to Turnus like waves to the North Wind

Aeneas leads his men like advancing cloud

Juturna like a swallow

Turnus and Aeneas like twin fires or streams

Latins like bees trapped inside rock, raging

Turnus breaks through ranks like an avalanche or flood

Aeneas like Athos, Eryx or Apenninus

Aeneas and Turnus like two bulls coming together

Turnus like a deer hemmed in

Fury, sent by Jupiter, like a Parthian arrow

Turnus like a man who dreams of himself running and trying to talk

\*Notice that similes occur most often when warfare is the subject: in the first half of the poem, there occur more similes in Book 2 than in any other; the second half of the poem, where the fighting is fiercest, contains more than twice as many similes as the first half, and the greatest number is found in Book 12. Remember, the Iliad, which contains many more scenes of fighting, has far more similes than the Odyssey.

**Acknowledgement: To Randall Colaizzi**