

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (268-94)

Tricky scansion practice:

- lines 276, 278 (consonantal u)
 - line 280 (Synizesis)
 - lines 287, 289 (Greek diphthongs ευ, υι)
1. What object did Aeneas have to retrieve before he could enter the underworld? Why does he need it, and what does it show about his character?
 2. Scan 268. Comment on how a metrical feature of this line contributes to the effect of the description.
 3. Who or what is Dis (line 269)?
 4. *per incertam lunam sub luce maligna* (line 270): What is the name of the literary device in which the scenery appears to show emotion?
 5. What is the effect of the simile in lines 270-2?
 6. Name a literary device at the end of line 272 and explain its effect.
 7. Who or what is Orcus? (line 273)
 8. Scan line 273. Why might the author have placed so many elisions here in one line?
 9. How is the imagery of sleep and rest developed in lines 274-284?
 10. Consider how the apparitions of evils in lines 274-281 are grouped together: Grief is next to Cares, Illnesses next to Old Age, and so on. How does Vergil group together similar concepts in this passage?
 11. Why might *mala Gaudia* be placed between *consanguineus Leti Sopor* and *mortiferum... Bellum*? (lines 278-9)
 12. Who or what are the Eumenides? (line 280)
 13. Name a literary device in lines 280-1 and explain its effect.
 14. Why did the poet say both *ramos* and *annosa... bracchia* in line 282?
 15. Scan line 284, and comment on how the scansion contributes to the meaning of the line.
 16. Comment on the sound effects in line 285 and how they contribute to the mood of the scene.
 17. What did Scylla look like, according to Homer's *Odyssey* and according to Ovid's *Metamorphoses*? (line 286) Which appearance is more likely to be suggested here?

18. Who is Briareus and how is he associated with the underworld?
19. Who is the beast of Lerna (line 287) and who slayed it?
20. What animal parts was the Chimaera composed of?
21. What could the *forma tricorporis umbrae* possibly be? (line 289)
22. In lines 290-1, name a literary device and explain its effect.
23. What is the effect of placing the verb *corripit* at the start of the sentence in line 290?
24. How does the change in metrical pattern in line 291 emphasise the action in the line?