

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (295-314)

Tricky scansion practice:

- 307, 310, 314 (elision)
1. What are the rivers of the underworld?
 2. Observe how *turbidus* and *gurgēs* frame line 296. How does this word order contribute to the description?
 3. What is the effect of using the word *eructat*, “belches out”, for a river? (line 297)
 4. How is Charon characterised in lines 298-304?
Why is he shown as coarse and filthy?
 5. Name a literary device in lines 298 and explain its effect.
 6. What is the effect of using *lumina*, a common poetic metaphor, instead of “eyes” in line 300?
 7. Comment on the word order in line 301 and explain its effect.
 8. Comment on the sound effects in line 302.
 9. What colours are brought to mind in lines 303-4, and what are these colours associated with?
 10. How do the types of characters in the crowd of souls in lines 305-8 evoke pathos for the audience?
Bonus: Which group of souls did you find the saddest while reading, and why?
 11. In lines 309-12, Vergil uses two similes drawn from nature. How does the imagery of nature in this passage affect how the audience thinks of death?
How does the choice of vocabulary in the description of these metaphors link them to the scene at hand?
 12. Why do the souls long to be on the other side of the river? (lines 313-4)

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (315-330)

Tricky scansion practice:

- line 325 (*est* elision)
1. What is the effect of writing *navita* instead of *nauta* in line 315?
 2. Name a literary device in line 315 and explain its effect.
 3. Comment on the sound effects in line 316.
 4. How is Aeneas' reaction to the shades in line 317 contrasted with his reaction to the previous shades in line 290?
 5. What is the effect of repeating *hae* and *illae* in line 320?
 6. What colour are the shoals in line 320, and how does this contribute to the mood of the scene?
 7. What is the effect of saying *olli* instead of *illi* in line 321? Is this effect consistent with how the Sibyl is described in the same line?
 8. Scan line 323. Where would you put the main caesura, and does it enhance the effect of any literary device in the line?
 9. In lines 324-5 Aeneas learns that the unburied must remain on the outer side of the Styx. Later in the passage, whom does he meet and talk with in the crowd of the unburied dead?
 10. Name a literary device in line 327 and explain its effect.
 11. How do the souls move around in the underworld? What verbs does Vergil use, and how do these evoke pathos? (line 329)
 12. Scan line 330 and comment on how the meter contributes to the effect of the line.