

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (440-455)

Tricky scansion practice:

- 447 (Greek names Pasipha-e, La-o-damia)
 - 451 (Tro-i-us)
1. What is the effect of synchysis in lines 440-1?
 2. How is the imagery of secrecy in lines 442-4 appropriate to the topic of love?
 3. Find a literary device in line 444 and explain its effect.
 4. What is the effect of hyperbaton in line 445?
 5. Find a literary device in lines 448-9 and explain its effect.
 6. What was Caeneus' name when she was a woman?
 7. Which of the women mentioned in this passage (440-55) was the wife of a prophet, and was killed by her son?
 8. What did Pasiphae do out of love that was monstrous?
 9. Which of the women had an incestuous affair?
 10. Which of the women had a love which was very passionate, and led to her suicide after her husband died?
 11. Which of the women was killed by mistake by her husband?
 12. What is the effect of relating only the names of the women who tragically died in love, when only Caeneus' and Eriphyle's stories are given any explanation here?
 13. How might the stories of the women killed tragically by love foreshadow the encounter between Dido and Aeneas?
 14. Comment on the use of word order in line 450. Does this in any way reflect Aeneas' initial reaction to seeing Dido?
 15. What is the wound which Dido harbours, and how was it caused? (line 450)
 16. Find an example of a transferred epithet in lines 451-5.
 17. Find a literary device in line 454 and explain its effect.
 18. How does the poet describe *amor* in the passage? (lines 440-55) What are the qualities of love which the poet draws attention to in his description?
 19. Does Aeneas appear to be a true *Troius heros* in this passage? In what ways?

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (456-76)

Tricky scansion practice:

- 459 (the *qua* in *si qua* is short here; *est*-elision)
 - 466 (elision; *hoc* scans long because it was pronounced *hocc*)
1. What is the significance of the phrase, *infelix Dido*, and how does it contribute to her characterisation? (line 456)
 2. How do the words or phrases Aeneas uses to refer to Dido reflect his attitude toward her? (lines 456-60)
 3. How does the poet build the tone of uncertainty and unease in lines 456-60?
 4. Context: Did Aeneas know that Dido had died before now? What had he seen of her demise, if anything?
 5. Find a literary device in lines 458-9 and explain its effect.
 6. What is the effect of the repetition of concepts in lines 461-3?
 7. How does the poet use word order to emphasise the weight of *dolor* in line 464?
 8. Find an example of juxtaposition in line 464 and comment on its effect.
 9. Even if he may act guiltily, does Aeneas consider himself to be the cause of Dido's death? (lines 461-6)
How does he emphasise the role of fate?
 10. Do Aeneas' words appear to have any positive effect on Dido? How does the poet indicate her reaction? (lines 465-76)
 11. What do Aeneas' final words to Dido express about his state of mind? (line 466)
 12. Find a literary device in lines 467-8 and explain its effect.
 13. Find a literary device in line 469 and explain its effect.
 14. What is the effect of litotes in line 470?
 15. Locate a double simile in the passage. Does this simile recall any phrases which appeared the last time Dido and Aeneas spoke? (lines 469-76)
 16. Comment on the sound effects in line 469.
 17. What is "Marpesian rock", and how may its qualities be appropriate for characterising Dido in this passage? (line 471)
 18. What is the effect of the elisions in line 472?

19. Explain the effect of hyperbaton in lines 473-4.
20. How did Sychaeus die, and what did Dido vow after he died? (line 474)
21. *aequat* and *iniquo* come from the same root word. What is the effect of the poet repeating this root in two different ways? (lines 474-5)
22. Find a literary device in line 475 and explain its effect.
23. Does Aeneas love Dido or only pity her?
Does the poet even clearly indicate it either way, or does his language leave the answer ambiguous?
24. How are Aeneas and Dido's roles reversed from the last time they spoke to each other in book four?