

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (847-853)

Tricky scansion practice:

- 849 (remembering the case of the 4th declension word)
1. Who is speaking in this passage? And what had the speaker previously described?
 2. How does the aside, *credo equidem*, affect the tone of voice in this passage? (line 848)
 3. How does the poet use language to contrast the Greek arts of sculpture, oratory, and astronomy with the Roman *artes*? (847-53)
 4. Comment on the effect of word order in line 851.
 5. In line 851, what is the significance of using the word *Romane* in addressing Aeneas?
 6. Context: Was there any time Aeneas didn't take his father's advice about sparing the vanquished? (line 853)

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (854-866)

Tricky scansion practice:

- 861 (m-elision)
1. Who are the *mirantibus*, and how may the role of one of them have changed in the course of this Underworld descent? (line 854)
 2. Find a literary device in line 855 and explain its effect.
 3. Context: What is the *spolia opima*? (line 855)
 4. Scan line 857 and comment on the use of metre and sound effects.
 5. Find a literary device in line 858 and explain its effect.
 6. Context: Who were the Poeni? (line 857) Have we seen them in the Aeneid before?
 7. Find a literary device in line 859 and explain its effect.
 8. Context: The *arma* in line 859 called the "third arms". Who dedicated the other two?
 9. How does the poet use language to build pathos in describing the figure of Marcellus in lines 861-2?

10. Scan line 863 and comment on how the metre contributes to Aeneas' tone of voice.
11. What is the din around the younger Marcellus – what does it denote here, and what may it anticipate? (line 865)
12. How does the poet develop imagery of light and darkness in the passage? (lines 861-66)

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (867-86)

1. How does the poet bring attention to the notion of family in lines 867-8?
2. Find a literary device in line 867 and explain its effect.
3. What is the effect of Anchises not giving the name of the young man until line 883?
4. Find a literary device in lines 870-1 and explain its effect.
5. How does Anchises' claim in lines 870-1 emphasise *pietas* in his reaction to Marcellus' death?
6. Comment on the effect of word order in the sentence: *quantos... gemitus!* (lines 872-3)
7. What is the effect of claiming that the field will make great groanings? (lines 872-3)
8. Why does the poet address the river Tiber in lines 873-4?
9. Find a literary device in lines 875-6 and explain its effect.
10. What is the effect of synchysis in lines 876-7?
11. How does Anchises' exclamation, *heu pietas, heu prisca fides invictaque bello / dextera!* build our understanding of Marcellus' character?
What does this choice of virtues suggest about the ideal Roman hero?
12. Explain the effect of enjambment in line 879.
13. Context: did Marcellus die in violent or peaceful circumstances?
14. What role does Marcellus play on the battlefield in lines 880-1, and how does this contribute to the pathos of the scene?
15. Why did the poet focus so many lines here on the Marcellus who died young, instead of on the one who achieved great deeds including winning the *spolia opima*?
16. How does the poet emphasise the idea of futility in lines 882-886?
17. How is Marcellus' funeral different from the funeral of Misenus and the promised funeral of Palinurus, earlier in book six?

18. What is the effect of enjambment in line 886?

Aeneid VI - Literary and context questions (886-899)

1. Why would the poet choose the verb *lustrant*, with so many possible meanings in this context? What could its vagueness convey?
2. Has *amor* benefited or harmed Aeneas through this story? (line 889)
Do previous encounters with *amor* affect our expectations of what will happen to Aeneas in his pursuit of Roman glory?
Can *amor* be pious?
3. What words does Anchises show his son in line 890?
4. Find a literary device in line 892 and explain its effect.
5. How does the material of the Gate of Ivory contrast with that of the Gate of Horn? (lines 894-5)
6. What are some of the theories as to why Aeneas and the Sibyl leave through the Gate of Ivory?
Does the poet leave any clues in the narrative as to why they used the gate of false dreams?
7. Find a literary device in line 894 and explain its effect.
8. What is the effect of synchysis in line 895?