

Herndon High School- AP Vergil Summer Assignment

This summer, I am asking that all AP Vergil students read a translation of the *Aeneid* and complete the following assignments. While there are many excellent translations of the *Aeneid*, I recommend either of the following:

Aeneid (trans. Stanley Lombardo) Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-731-8

-- This translation is set up like poetry, but it reads like prose; it is quite easy to read.

The Aeneid (trans. David West) Penguin Classics ISBN: 0-14-044457-2

-- This is a prose translation and is very easy to read.

Other translations, like Fitzgerald or Fagles, are fine (I've taught students who have used both of those) but can be a bit frustrating to read with their more archaic English and modern poetics.

While reading the *Aeneid*, you will be looking at characters, their interactions with one another, and keeping some major themes of the *Aeneid* in mind.

On the first day of class you will submit the outline described below and the work from the following pages. Please type this work .(Times New Roman, 12 pt.)

Outline on a Major Theme: Write an outline for an essay (5 paragraph, analytical essay is fine) on the prompt below. Your thesis must be clearly stated in a complete sentence. For the rest of the outline, you may use complete sentences, but they are not required. You must refer to specific scenes to support your arguments and offer specific quotations to defend your stance. I'm making the assumption you can write an essay; I just want to see that you can pull out evidence appropriate to your thesis and explain the relevance of a scene/ quotation.

Prompt:

Much of the *Aeneid* is a struggle with fate- trying to alter it or reconciling oneself with it. In a well developed outline, demonstrate the role of fate in Aeneas' succeeding in Italy.

You must address the characters of Creusa, Pallas, and Juturna and add others if you need.

Example-

I. Thesis- Mrs. Guppy is incredible, amazing, and fantastic.

II. Statement of Argument 1- Mrs. Guppy is an incredible Latin teacher.

A. Defense One- Scores

1. quotation/ scene 1- Mrs. Guppy's students have high scores on the NLE.

2. explanation of significance- shows that she succeeds in teaching Latin

B. Defense Two- Enrollment

1. quotation/ scene 2- The Latin enrollment at HHS is high.

2. explanation of significance- shows Mrs. Guppy's students enjoy class

C. Defense Three...

III. Statement of Argument 2- Mrs. Guppy is an amazing person.

A.

B....

V. Conclusion-

A. recap points- Mrs. Guppy is an incredible Latin teacher, amazing person, etc.

B. restate thesis- One can see that Mrs. Guppy is incredible, amazing, and fantastic.

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Main Characters: As you read the *Aeneid*, note when all these characters are living up to the description of each.

1. Next to each name, list at least one major scene in which he/ she acts that way.
2. Describe what happened in that scene.
3. In just a sentence or two, explain why this character is important for this scene in the *Aeneid*.

There are many instances where each character behaves such throughout the *Aeneid*, so please draw your examples from throughout the book.

See the example for Achates (yeah, I know, he's not a major character, but I needed to save the big ones for y'all).

Achates- faithful (*fidelis*): Book 1 “setting out towards and arriving in Carthage”- Achates sets out with Aeneas, as Aeneas' only companion. Both he and Aeneas are “deceived” by Venus. He is consoled by the crying Aeneas at the temple of Juno where scenes from the fall of Troy are depicted. Both he and Aeneas are scared, confused, and excited to see other surviving Trojans in Carthage. It is Achates who encourages Aeneas and relieves him by pointing out that more of Aeneas' men survived than he had originally thought. After Aeneas has introduced himself to Dido and been received by Carthage, he sends Achates to fetch Ascanius and the others.

Why- Achates is more than Aeneas' errand boy; he reliably discharges any task without ever over shadowing Aeneas. As this is early in the epic, it is important that Aeneas be the focus, though not friendless.

Major Characters:

1. Aeneas- pious
2. Anchises- guiding/ wise
3. Ascanius- young/ inexperienced
4. Dido- wretched/ unlucky
5. Juno- angry/ vengeful
6. Jupiter- all-knowing/ all-powerful
7. Turnus- proud/ rash
8. Venus- maternal

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Minor Characters: As you read the *Aeneid*, take note of these minor characters and how they advance the plot.

1. Choose three (3) characters from the list.
2. Note where in the *Aeneid* each appears.
3. Describe who this person is and what he/she does.
4. Note what (if any) interaction this character has with Aeneas.
5. Explain what significance this character has for the plot.

See the example for Nisus (as in “Nisus and Euryalus”).

Nisus- Book 9. Nisus was an audacious Trojan youth who decided (despite Aeneas’ orders against it) to raid the enemy camp one night while Aeneas was away. His best friend, Euryalus went with him. Ascanius and Trojan leaders wished them well. They murdered many of the enemy, but Euryalus got greedy and stole a shiny helmet from a dead guy (you see where this is going). As they tried to escape, the enemy saw the shiny helmet and caught Euryalus. As they were about to execute him, Nisus ran out and was killed with his best friend. They interacted more with Ascanius than with Aeneas. They serve two major purposes- 1. they are an example of devotion between friends and of bravery; 2. they get the enemy riled up to fight the Trojans while Aeneas is absent (cue enemy kicking Trojan rear until Aeneas returns).

Minor Characters:

1. Amata
2. Andromache
3. Anna
4. Camilla
5. Evander
6. Jarbas (Iarbas)
7. Lausus
8. Mezentius
9. Sibyl of Cumae