



## AP Latin

1. *The Aeneid*. Translated by Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics: Reprint Edition, January 2006. ISBN: 978-0143105138.

The selections from Vergil's *Aeneid* required by the AP syllabus are as follows. We will be reading these selections in Latin together in class next semester:

Book I.1-209, 418-440, 494-578

Book II.40-56, 201-249, 268-297, 559-620

Book IV.160-218, 259-361, 659-705

Book VI.295-332, 384-425, 450-476, 847-899

Your first task over this summer is to read Vergil's *Aeneid* in its entirety (almost: see the other document for the lines assigned, plus the questions to be answered). The questions are due on the first day of class; please be concise in your answers.

2. Harris, Robert. *Conspirata: A Novel of Ancient Rome*. Gallery Books: February 1st, 2011.

The New York Times Review of Books said of Robert Harris' novel that "*Conspirata* is a portrait of ancient politics as blood sport." If that's not enough to get you interested, let's just say that this is a historical novel about our old friend Cicero and the lengths to which he must go to save both himself and his beloved Roman Republic - with, of course, disastrous consequences for both. We're reading this book because it helps put Julius Caesar's writings about his Gallic War, which we'll start reading in September, into political and cultural context. Also, it will be a useful historical background when we turn to poetry: after the young Octavian deals the Republic its final death-blow and becomes Rome's beloved "Augustus," he asks a poet named Vergil to give him a founding epic: *The Aeneid*.

3. Mendelsohn, Daniel. *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic*. Knopf: September 12th, 2017.

Daniel Mendelsohn is an author, a journalist, a critic, a translator, and a Classicist. In this book, he weaves together his own teaching and reading of Homer's *Odyssey* (which is basically a story about fathers and sons) and his relationship to his own father. Mendelsohn's father took the seminar that his son taught at Bard College on epic poetry, and this book is partly about the challenges both of them faced during that course and what they learned about each other. It's mostly, though, about what it means to be human, told through the lens of one of the most emotional relationships there is, that between parent and child. We're reading this book because, as we'll see, Vergil's *Aeneid*, which uses the *Odyssey* as one of its most important sources, is also very much a book about fathers and sons, and the responsibilities that each has to the other.

***Please read the following lines of the Aeneid (Fagles translation) in English. The line numbers correspond to those in Fagles' translation.***

Introduction to Fagles' translation

Books I - IV : all

Book V : 1-134; 663 – end

Books VI and VII : all

Book VIII : 1-201; 436-end

Books IX – XII : all

The following questions are due on the first day of class in September. Please be as complete and concise in your answers as possible.

### **Book I**

1. “What could wound the Queen of the Gods with all her power?” (10)
2. What is another name for Aeneas' son (who is introduced to us as “Ascanius?”)
3. In one word, sum up the tone of Juno's speech to herself, just before she goes to Aeolus to ask him to release the winds.
4. What is Venus' prophecy, and what is Jupiter's?
5. Who is Ilioneus, and what does he say to Dido?
6. When Aeneas first sees Carthage, what is his overriding emotion?
7. What is depicted on the walls of Juno's temple at Carthage? Do you think it's odd that this temple is dedicated to Juno?

### **Book II**

1. What is the role of the gods in Book II?
2. (How) does Aeneas fulfill his epithet (*pius*) in Book II?
3. In one word, sum up the tone of Laocoon's speech about the dangers of the horse.
4. What are the warnings that the Trojans ignore about the horse (there are 3)?
5. Who is Sinon, and what does he do?
6. According to Aeneas, what really causes Troy to be defeated?
7. How does Priam die? What do we learn about Achilles in this scene?
8. What is Hector's message to Aeneas?

9. What does Aeneas bring with him when he decides to leave Troy?
10. Why doesn't Aeneas kill Helen?
11. What happens to Creusa (and who is she)?

### **Book III**

1. What happens when Aeneas tries to pull up plants from the ground?
2. What happened to Polydorus?
3. Once Aeneas gets to Delos, what prophecy does he get? Where is he supposed to go?
4. Once Aeneas gets to Crete, what convinces him that this isn't where they're supposed to be? Where do the gods tell him to go next?
5. What are Harpies? Who is Celaeno and what is her prophecy?
6. In Buthrotum, Aeneas finds Andromache. Who is she? Who is Helenus? What has he built in Buthrotum? What is his prophecy/warning to Aeneas?
7. In Sicily: who is Achaemenides? What has happened to him?
8. What happens at the town of Drepanum?

### **Book IV**

1. Where do you think Vergil's sympathies lie- with Dido, or with Aeneas? Cite text to support your answer.
2. What are some recurring images/themes in Book IV?
3. Do you think Dido feels guilty? Why, or why not? Cite text to support your answer.
4. Give a description of *Fama* (Rumor), as Vergil describes her. Why does she look/act like this? How does Vergil's creation differ from the one that you would construct, and why?
5. Define *pudor*, and discuss its importance to Dido, giving specific examples from the text.
6. Re-write Iarbas' speech in your own words.
7. What do you think of the defense that Aeneas gives to Dido for leaving? Cite text in your answer.
8. Dido's suicide is \_\_\_\_\_. Noble? Necessary? Pathetic? Fill in the blank however you want, and cite text to support your answer.

## **Book V**

1. Aeneas and Palinurus decide to go off-course because of a storm. Where do they land?
2. Who do they find there?
3. What does Juno order Iris to do? Why?
4. What does Aeneas do in the face of a new disaster? What is his solution? Does he come up with it on his own or with help?
5. What is Jupiter's promise to Venus? How does it come (at least partly) true by the end of Book V?

## **Book VI**

1. Describe the Sibyl's instructions/warnings to Aeneas about his descent to the Underworld. What must he do?
2. Who is Misenus?
3. Who is Charon? Describe him.
4. Why is Charon hesitant to let Aeneas cross?
5. What is Dido's reaction when Aeneas sees her in the Underworld? What does she say to him, and who is she with?
6. Whom does Aeneas try to hug three times, but in vain? Does this remind you of anything from earlier in the poem?
7. How does Vergil describe Augustus in Book VI?
8. When Aeneas asks Anchises who it is who walks beside the elder Marcellus, what is Anchises' reaction?
9. Through which gate does Aeneas leave the Underworld? Why?

## **Book VII**

1. What is King Latinus' plan, at first?
2. Juno gives a speech early in Book VII, talking to herself. Of what former speech does this remind you?
3. Who is Allecto, and what does she do to make the Trojans' lives more difficult? What happens to Latinus' original plan?
4. At line 747 of Book VII, Vergil gives another invocation to the Muses, just as he did at the start of Book I. Why does he do this? Can you compare the two?
5. What are your impressions thus far of Turnus?

### **Book VIII**

1. Who is Evander, and what is his reaction to seeing Aeneas and the Trojans?
2. What does Aeneas see on the shield his mother gives him? Why are these particular scenes included?

### **Book IX**

1. Who are Nisus and Euryalus? Why does Vergil devote so much time to describing them?
2. At line 601 of Book 9, Vergil invokes the Muse again. Why?
3. Why does Turnus back off at the end of Book 9?

### **Book X**

1. What argument does Juno make at the start of Book X? Do you buy it?
2. What is Jupiter's response?
3. Who is Pallas, who kills him, and what does his killer take from him?

### **Book XI**

1. Who is Camilla, and what happens to her?

### **Book XII**

1. What are the conditions for the fighting to stop?
2. What happens to Queen Amata?
3. Who tries to help Turnus and Aeneas, respectively, and how?
4. What is Juno's final request of Jupiter? Does he honor it?
5. What happens to Juturna?
6. What is Turnus' final request of Aeneas? Does he honor it? Why, or why not?
7. Do you think that Aeneas' actions at the end of the *Aeneid* comply with his the prophecy/warning his father gave him about the future of Rome/Romans and their behavior in Book VI? Why, or why not?