

Virgil [70-19 BCE], *Aeneid*, Book 2

Epic -- tragic, historical, philosophical

The African Queen's Symposium --

Story of Troy in Flames

Read *Aeneid* Book 2.

TO DO: FILL in BLANK spaces below & MARGINS of your book with main points.

LINE NUMBERS [Of the original poem: equivalents may vary from translation to translation]

[1-249: Main Thrust? _____] [MAIN DIVISION HEAD]

1-56: WHAT are the signs of danger & why do they get ignored? _____

WHO is Laocoon & what does he do? _____

57-198: HOW is Greek character portrayed? _____

276-350: WHAT happens to Laocoon & where? _____

[250-633: Main Theme? _____]

250-452: WHAT does the ghost tell Aeneas to do? _____

BUT what does Aeneas do & why? _____

HOW do his motives here resemble those of other heroes? _____

453-558: HOW does the son of Achilleus compare with his father? _____

Recalls what scene in Homer? _____

How has Virgil changed things? _____

Compare the deaths of Priam & Laocoon: _____

559-633: WHAT does Venus finally make clear to her son? _____

[634-804: Main Thrust? _____]

WHAT persuades Anchises to leave? _____

STUDY QUESTIONS: answer the following questions on the basis of your reading:

1. How does this book follow from the previous? _____

a. **How in particular does it fill out the story as announced at the beginning of book one?** _____

b. **Briefly summarize the three main phases of the action in this book:**

> _____

>> _____

>>> _____

2. What signs are given to Aeneas that he has a mission outside and beyond the limits of Troy? _____

3. How suited to the new mission are his immediate emotions and actions [lines 351-606]?

a. **Do these reactions bring to mind any other heroes you have seen?** _____

b. **How is Aeneas, as a potentially Roman hero, supposed to differ from the older Greek models?** _____

4. How do images of animals help to convey the idea of destructive force?

5. Fathers and sons: how do these images punctuate and highlight the significance of this book?
