

Literature Year 2

Lesson 9¹



Now that you have a good grasp of the *Aeneid* as a whole we can zoom in on book 3.

The first book of the *Aeneid* is narrated by an “omniscient”² narrator. You will have noticed from lesson 8 that, as with the epics of Homer whose style influenced Virgil, the first book of the *Aeneid* begins *in medio res*³ with Aeneas and his companions sailing across the Mediterranean towards Italy. A storm drives them to take refuge on the shore of North Africa where they are welcomed by the Carthaginian Queen, Dido. In the next two books, 2 and 3, we have the story of Aeneas's previous adventures narrated by the hero himself to the queen and her court. So, throughout the extracts that are set for the IGCSE syllabus, *Aeneas himself is the narrator*. Book 2 tells of the Trojan Horse, the defeat of Troy and the escape of Aeneas with his son and father. Then follows book 3 from which the IGCSE set lines are taken.

Anchises serves as a leader and advisor for the fleeing Trojans. After leaving Troy, the refugees make their way to Thrace and then to Delos. In Delos, Apollo tells them that they must make their new home in the original home of their ancestors. Anchises misinterprets this to mean Crete and so the Trojans head for Crete. There they establish a city but they are soon overwhelmed by a plague. Anchises instructs Aeneas to seek out the Delian oracle. Before he does, he is visited in his dreams by their household gods who inform him they are in the wrong place and they must go to Italy. Aeneas tells Anchises of this dream. Anchises realizes that Apollo must have meant them to establish a home in Italy and so the Trojans sail toward Italy. Italy is far away and the Trojans have to make many stops. Anchises dies in Sicily before the Trojans arrive in Italy.

You can find a good plot summary of book 3 and notes here: <https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Aeneid/book-3-summary/> and here: <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/aeneid/summary-and-analysis/book-iii>.

Having read through the above pages, answer the questions below. Answers are on the last page.

1. Who warns Aeneas to leave Thrace and what was this person's relationship to Aeneas?
2. What do the Trojans do before they leave?
3. Where do the Trojans go next?
4. Why do they leave this next place?
5. Where do they set off for next?
6. On one of which group of islands do they end up due to a storm?

1 Image of modern-day Stamfani, the largest of the Strofades (Strophadēs) islands. Permission sought by email from <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/eng/Areas/Greece/The-Harpies-islands-and-the-lord-of-the-sea-184868> 10/09/21

2 Technical term meaning a narrator who is outside the story itself and who can “see” all the events and characters including their thoughts.

3 In the middle of things.

7. What creatures attack them here?
8. Who is Celaeno and what does she prophesy?
9. Where do the Trojans go next and what do they do there?
10. Why did the Trojans leave Sicily and whom did they take with them?
11. Who was buried at Drepanum?
12. Where do the Trojans arrive after a storm?

1. His dead son, Polydorus warns Aeneas to leave Thrace.
2. Before they leave the Trojans perform funeral rites for Polydorus.
3. The Trojans go to Crete next.
4. They leave because of a plague.
5. They set off for Italy next.
6. They end up on an island in the Strophadēs (Strofades) due to a storm.
7. They are attacked by Harpies here.
8. Celaeno is the leader of the Harpies and what she prophesies is that when the Trojans reach Italy they will be driven by famine to eat their tables.
9. The Trojans go next to Actium, where they spend several months and hold athletic contests.
10. The Trojans leave Sicily because of the appearance Cyclopes. They take with them Ahaemenidēs.
11. Anchises. was buried at Drepanum.
12. After a storm the Trojans arrive at Carthage in North Africa..