

# Aeneid Book III

## Virgil's Art 8

### Lines 677-691



First use your flash cards, or those on Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/gb/617807965/aeneid-cambridge-international-igcse-2023-25-flash-cards/> to make sure you can translate these lines. Revise the notes that apply to these lines in the lessons Year 2 term 3 weeks 2 and 3 day 3. My attempted answers are on the next page.

cernimus astantis nequiquam lumine torvo  
Aetnaeos fratres caelo capita alta ferentis,  
concilium horrendum: quales cum vertice celso  
ariae quercus aut coniferae cyparissi 680  
constiterunt, silva alta Iovis lucusve Dianae.  
praecipitis metus acer agit quocumque rudentis  
excutere et ventis intendere vela secundis.  
contra iussa monent Heleni, Scyllamque Charybdinque  
inter, utrimque viam leti discrimine parvo, 685  
ni teneam cursus: certum est dare lintea retro.  
ecce autem Boreas angusta ab sede Pelori  
missus adest: vivo praetervehor ostia saxo  
Pantagiae Megarosque sinus Thapsumque iacentem.  
talìa monstrabat relegens errata retrorsus 690  
litora Achaemenides, comes infelicis Ulixi.  
Exam style questions:

- (a) *Aetnaeos fratres* (line 678) who are they? Why does Virgil use these words to describe them? [2]  
(b) Comment on Virgil's used of language in lines 680-681? [2]  
(c) Translate lines 682-683 (*praecipitis... ..secundis*). [2]  
(d) *certum est dare lintea retro*. (line 686). What do the Trojans decide to do? What two factors make them take this course? [3]  
(e) Write out and scan line 691 (*litora ... ..Ulixi*) marking in the long and short syllables and the divisions between the feet. [2]  
(g) "The immortals in the Aeneid put the mortals in the shade." How far do you agree with this statement based on the extract of the Aeneid you have read? Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write at least 100 words. [10]

Specimen answers are on the next page.

(a) *Aetnaeos fratres* (line 678) who are they? Why does Virgil use these words to describe them? [2]  
They are the Cyclopes. Virgil uses these words to describe them because of the mountain around which they had their homes. OR because they forge Jove's thunderbolts in the caverns of Aetna under the direction of Vulcan, the god of fire. (See Book VIII. Of the Aeneid.)

(b) Comment on Virgil's used of language in lines 680-681? [2]  
Virgil uses a simile here, comparing the Cyclopes to two different types of trees, towering oaks or coniferous cypresses.

(c) Translate lines 682-683 (*praecipitis... ..secundis*). [2]  
Compare with your flashcards to check.

(d) *certum est dare linthea retro*. (line 686). What do the Trojans decide to do? They decide to sail back the way they have come i.e. north-east. What two factors make them take this course? The first factor is the warning of Helenus. A southerly wind would blow them towards Scylla and Charybdis but Helenus has warned them not to go there. The second factor is fear of the Cyclopes which prevents them putting ashore. [3]

(e) Write out and scan line 691 (*litorea ... ..Ulixia*) marking in the long and short syllables and the divisions between the feet. [2]

Elision. Last two feet.

*litorea* *Achaemenides, comes infē* | *līcīs Ū* | *līxi*.

Diphthongs and vowels followed by two consonants or *x* are long. NB:- remember that the digraph *ch* counts as one letter only.

*litorea* *Achāemenidēs, comes infē* | *līcīs Ū* | *līxi*.

Count syllables: 11 so three dactyls and one spondee.

A syllable between two longs in long so the spondee must be foot four.

*litorea* *Achāemenidēs, comes* | *infē* | *līcīs Ū* | *līxi*.

Other feet are therefore dactyls.

*lītōr(a) Ā* | *chāemēnī* | *dēs, cōmēs* | *infē* | *līcīs Ū* | *līxi*.

(g) "The immortals in the Aeneid put the mortals in the shade." How far do you agree with this statement based on the extract of the Aeneid you have read? Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write at least 100 words. [10]

On the one hand Celaeno and her fellow harpies can be seen as putting Aeneas and his Trojans in the shade, driving them away from their "Clashing" island by force [1] and terrifying them with a curse [1] which, even though it turns out to be harmless in the end has them begging the gods that it will not come to pass. [1] Virgil paints these horrible creatures in bright colours, scattering the words through out the line in Synchysis, [1] to depict the chaos of their crashing wings [1] and filthy touch. [1] On the other hand dignified Anchises [1] and terrified Achaemenides [1] with his shaggy beard and his clothes held together with thorns are brightly painted. Unlike the immortal creatures Polyphemus and Celaeno, the mortals show courage, generosity to their fellow creatures. The immortals' vengefulness is only relieved by Polyphemus's love for his sheep. Morally at least they put the immortals in the shade.