

# Aeneid Book III

## Virgil's Art 1

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. Also look over the lessons for Year 2 Term 2 Week 1 Day 2 and the first part of Year 2 Term 2 Week 2 Day 2.

*servatum ex undis Strophadum me litora primum  
excipiunt. Strophades Graio stant nomine dictae 210  
insulae Ionio in magno, quas dira Celaeno  
Harpyiaequae colunt aliae, Phineia postquam  
clausa domus mensasque metu liquere priores.  
tristius haud illis monstrum, nec saevior ulla  
pestis et ira deum Stygiis sese extulit undis. 215  
virginei volucrum vultus, foedissima ventris  
proluvies uncaeque manus et pallida semper ora fame.  
huc ubi delati portus intravimus, ecce  
laeta boum passim campis armenta videmus 220  
caprigenumque pecus nullo custode per herbas.  
inruimus ferro et divos ipsumque vocamus  
in partem praedamque Iovem; tum litore curvo  
exstruimusque toros dapibusque epulamur opimis.  
at subitae horrifico lapsu de montibus adsunt 225  
Harpyiae et magnis quatiunt clangoribus alas,  
diripiuntque dapes contactuque omnia foedant  
immundo; tum vox taetrum dira inter odorem.*



Exam style questions:

- (a) How does Virgil make his writing vivid in the lines given above? You should refer to both what he says and how he says it. [4]  
[“Writing vivid” signals rhetorical devices and “How he says it” hints at scansion.]
- (b) Translate lines 219-221 (*huc ubi delati... ..custode per herbas.*). [5]
- (c) Why do the Harpies now live on the Strophades? [4]
- (d) Write out and scan line 211 (*insulae... Celaeno*), marking the long and short syllables and divisions between the feet. [Note: you need not distinguish long or short for the final syllable just mark it with an x.]  
Hint for working this question:  
Write the line out with plenty of space to mark in the lines between the feet. Then go through the rules step by step. Mark the longs and shorts and lines between the feet **in pencil**. When you are satisfied, you should ink in the pencil marks. [2]

Specimen answers on the next page.

(a) How does Virgil make his writing vivid in the lines given above? You should refer to both what he says and how he says it. [4]

Virgil makes his writing vivid in the lines above by using alliteration (*virginei volucrum vultus, foedissima ventri*) to emphasise the horrible description of the Harpies. [1] He also uses enjambment for vivid effect, carrying over *Harpylae* from line 225 into line 226 and leaving the reader in suspense as to what it is that has suddenly arrived. [1] Virgil also uses synchysis, scattering the words about in lines 226-8 to give the a vivid picture of the chaos of sound and smell that is happening.[1] Virgil can also achieve his effect by means of scansion as in line 228. Here the maximum number of spondees are used to contrast a slow screeching or wailing voice with the flapping and crashing of the Harpies in the previous line. [1]

(b) Translate lines 219-221 (*huc ubi delati... ..custode per herbas.*). [5]  
Check this with your flashcards.

(c) Why do the Harpies now live on the Strophades? [4]

The Harpies once lived with Phineus, a seer who was punished for revealing the future to human beings. [1] His punishment was blindness and also to be tormented by the Harpies who stole or defiled his food. [1] To earn his freedom from this punishment Phineus set sail with the Argonauts and with the help of the Boreads, the “wind brothers” [1] the Harpies were chased away to the *Strophades* or floating islands. [1]

(d) Write out and scan line 211 (*insulae...Celaeno*), marking the long and short syllables and divisions between the feet.

Elision:

*insula(e) Ioni(o) in magno, quas dira Celaeno*

Last five syllables:

*īn sula(e) I o ni(o) in mag no, quas | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno*

Long syllables before double consonants:

*īn sula(e) I o ni(o) īn māg no, quas | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno*

Vowel before another vowel (not a part of a diphthong) in the same word is usually short:

*īn sulō(e) I o nī(o) īn māg no, quas | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno*

Count remaining syllables: 10 so two dactyls and two spondees.

First foot has to be a dactyl because of the short *o*.

*īn sūlō(e) | I o nī(o) īn māg no, quas | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno*

Second foot has to be a dactyl because of the short *i*.

*īn sūlō(e) | I ō nī(o) | īn māg no, quas | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno.*

Remaining feet are spondees.

*īn sūlō(e) | I ō nī(o) | īn māg | nō, quās | dīrǎ Cě | lāeno.*