

Aeneid Book III

Virgil's Art 4

Lines 607-622



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 lesson Year 2 term 2 week 8 day 2, read the notes below and then tackle the exam style questions.

Exam style questions:

*dixerat et genua amplexus genibusque volutans
haerebat. qui sit fari, quo sanguine cretus,
hortamur, quae deinde agitet fortuna fateri.
ipse pater dextram Anchises haud multa moratus 610
dat iuveni atque animum praesenti pignore firmat.
ille haec deposita tandem formidine fatur:
'sum patria ex Ithaca, comes infelicis Ulixi,
nomine Achaemenides, Troiam genitore Adamasto
paupere (mansissetque utinam fortuna!) profectus. 615
hic me, dum trepidi crudelia limina linquunt,
immemores socii vasto Cyclopi in antro
deseruere. domus sanie dapibusque cruentis,
intus opaca, ingens. ipse arduus, altaque pulsat
sidera (di talem terris avertite pestem!) 620
nec visu facilis nec dictu adfabilis ulli;
visceribus miserorum et sanguine vescitur atro.*

- (a) *dixerat* (line 607) who has just been speaking? What did those listening urge him to do? [4]
(b) Who speaks the words in lines 613-622? What does he say about his father? [2]
(c) Comment on Virgil's use of meter in line 618. [2]
(d) Translate lines 613-615 (*sum patria ex Ithaca.....profectus.*) [2]
(e) What can we infer about the character of Anchises from lines 610-611? [1]
(f) Who or what is *Cyclopi* (line 617) and by what proper name is he/she/it mentioned in the Aeneid? [2]
(g) Write out and scan line 621 (*nec visu... ..adfabilis ulli*), marking the long and short syllables and divisions between the feet. [2]
(h) How does Virgil use rhetorical devices to make his writing vivid in these lines? Give examples from the text to illustrate your answer. [4]

Specimen answers on the next page.

(a) *dixerat* (line 607) who has just been speaking? What did those listening urge him to do? [4]
Achaemenides has just been speaking [1] and the listeners urge him to say who he was, [1] who his family was (“born of what blood”) [1] and then to say what fate pursued him. [1]

(b) Who speaks the words in lines 613-622? What does he say about his father? [2]
Achaemenides is the speaker again [1] and he says his father was poor. [1]

(c) Comment on Virgil's use of meter in line 618. [2]
This line is made up entirely of dactyls, [1] giving a galloping or rushing feel. This pictures Ulysses and his companions rushing out of the Cyclops's cave, their hearts pounding with fear. [1]

(d) Translate lines 613-615 (*sum patria ex Ithaca.....profectus.*) [2]
Check this against your flashcards.

(e) What can we infer about the character of Anchises from lines 609-610? [1]
Anchises has suffered much at the hands of the Greeks. He has lost his home and his family. In spite of this he gives the right hand of friendship to Achaemenides the Greek. This shows a supremely generous and forgiving character. He does this *haud multa moratus* i.e. not instantly but also without lingering. This shows a dignified and thoughtful character – he has weighed up what he is doing and his action is deliberate. (Any of these points should gain the mark.)

(f) Who or what is *Cyclopis* (line 617) and by what proper name is he/she/it mentioned in the Aeneid? [2]
The Cyclops is a one eyed, giant, shepherd. [1] His proper name is Polyphemus. [1]

(g) Write out and scan line 621 (*nec visu... ..adfabilis ulli*), marking the long and short syllables and divisions between the feet.

Elisions and last two feet:

nec visu facilis nec dict(u) ad|fābīlīs| ūlli

No diphthongs. Syllables followed by two consonants or x are long.

nēc visu facilīs nēc dīct(u) ād|fābīlīs| ūlli

Count remaining syllables: 9 so three spondees and one dactyl.

The two pairs of longs make two spondees:

nēc visu| facilīs nēc| dīct(u) ād|fābīlīs| ūlli

therefore first foot is a dactyl.

nēc vīsū| facilīs nēc| dīct(u) ād|fābīlīs| ūlli

(h) How does Virgil use rhetorical devices to make his writing vivid in these lines? Give examples from the text to illustrate your answer. [4]

Virgil uses polyptoton, in line 607, *genua amplexus genibusque volutans*, repeating *genua* in a different form for vivid emphasis. [1] He also creates a vivid effect using enjambment in line 617: the sentence ends at the beginning of the following line with *deseruere*. The effect is vividly tragic with the key word held over to keep us in suspense. [1] In line 621 Virgil uses the device assonance, the repetition of the vowel sound across words within the lines, *nec visu facilis nec dictu adfabilis ulli*. [1] This is combined with alliterative *f*s which also contribute to the smooth sound of the line that vividly paints what Polyphemus is not like. [1]