

# Aeneid Book III

## Virgil's Art 6

### Lines 641-658

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 2 Week 10 Day 2, and Year 2 Term 3 Week 1 Day 2 and then tackle the exam style questions.

*nam qualis quantusque cavo Polyphemus in antro  
lanigeras claudit pecudes atque ubera pressat,  
centum alii curva haec habitant ad litora vulgo  
infandi Cyclopes et altis montibus errant.  
tertia iam lunae se cornua lumine complent 645  
cum vitam in silvis inter deserta ferarum  
lustra domosque traho vastosque ab rupe Cyclopas  
prospicio sonitumque pedum vocemque tremesco.  
victum infelicem, bacas lapidosaque corna,  
dant rami, et vulsis pascunt radicibus herbae. 650  
omnia conlustrans hanc primum ad litora classem  
conspexi venientem. huic me, quaecumque fuisset,  
addixi: satis est gentem effugisse nefandam.  
vos animam hanc potius quocumque absumite leto.'  
Vix ea fatus erat summo cum monte videmus 655  
ipsum inter pecudes vasta se mole moventem  
pastorem Polyphemum et litora nota petentem,  
monstrum horrendum, informe, ingens, cui lumen ademptum.*



Exam style questions:

- (a) Who is the speaker and what does he say he has been forced to eat? [3]
- (b) *Polyphemus* who is this? What is his occupation? What does the speaker indicate should concern his listeners in relation to Polyphemus? [3]
- (c) Write out and scan line 649, *victum ... ..corna*, marking in the long and short syllables and the divisions between the feet. [2]
- (d) How does Virgil match sound to sense in line 658, *monstrum... .. lumen ademptum*? [2]  
Hint: remember “matches sound to sense” means look for things you **hear** i.e. alliteration, assonance or scansion!
- (e) Choose two features of the part of the Aeneid that you have read which you consider bring out the drama of the story. Describe them briefly and say why you have chosen them. Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write about 100 words. [1]  
Hints:- Make sure you choose **two** features. Use the formula: “One feature... Another feature...” then Use the words “bring out the **drama** of the story” in your answer. “Features of the text” does **not** mean “scenes from the text.” If you have read the whole of Book III of the Aeneid in English translation (which you should have done!) then you are allowed to include features from that if you wish. If you only comment on the lines printed in the paper you will not get good marks.

Suggested answers are on the next page.

(a) Who is the speaker and what does he say he has been forced to eat? [3]

The speaker is Achaemenides. [1] He says he has been forced to eat wild fruits, [1] stony Cornelian cherries [1] and grasses torn up by the roots [1]. (Three marks so any two of the foods will get full marks.)

(b) *Polyphemus* who is this? What is his occupation? What does the speaker indicate should concern his listeners in relation to Polyphemus? [3]

Polyphemus is a Cyclops, or one eyed giant. [1] He is a shepherd by occupation. [1] He indicates that there are a hundred other Cyclopes on the island. [1]

(c) Write out and scan line 649, *victum ... ..corna*, marking in the long and short syllables and the divisions between the feet. [2]

Elision and final two feet.

*vict(um) infelicem, bacas lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

No diphthongs. Vowels before two consonants or x are long:

*vīct(um) īnfelicēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Count remaining syllables 9 so 1 dactyl and three spondees:

Two longs at beginning make first foot spondee:

*vīct(um) īn | felicēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Syllables between two longs are long:

*vīct(um) īn | felicēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

First syllable of a foot is always long:

*vīct(um) īn | fēlicēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Syllable between two longs is long:

*vīct(um) īn | fēlicēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Therefore second foot is spondee:

*vīct(um) īn | fēlī | cēm, bacās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Syllable between two longs is long:

*vīct(um) īn | fēlī | cēm, bā | cās lapid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

Remaining foot is the dactyl.

*vīct(um) īn | fēlī | cēm, bā | cās lāpid | ōsāquē | cōrna,*

(d) How does Virgil match sound to sense in line 658, *monstrum... .. lumen ademptum*? [2]

This is a spondaic line. The maximum number of spondees give a long heavy feel that picture the giant Cyclops. [1] The elisions produce a giant word *monstrhorrendinformingens* like a huge name for a huge being. [1]

(e) Choose two features of the part of the Aeneid that you have read which you consider bring out the drama of the story. Describe them briefly and say why you have chosen them. Support your answer with reference to the text. You should write about 100 words. [1]

One feature which brings out the drama of the story of Aeneas' visit to the Strophedes and to Sicily is the vivid descriptions of mythical beings he and his Trojans encounter. Short phrases such as the alliterative *virginei volucrum vultus* or the synchysistic lines in which their arrival and disruption of the feast is described are dramatic features. Likewise the description of Polyphemus the *monstrhorrendinformingens* giant who is terrifying (*horrendum*) yet pathetic as he tries to bathe his blinded eye brings out the drama of the story.

Another feature is the speeches of the actors in the drama which show us their characters and feelings. Achaemenides is desperate, his heart pounding with mixed terror and relief as he begs the Trojans to take him with them or even kill him rather than leave him to the Cyclopes. *Si pereō, hominum manibus periisse iuvabit* tumbles out of him in galloping dactyls. Celaeno, on the other hand is vindictive and spiteful as she hisses out her prophecy full of *is* sounds, hurling out *Laomedontiadae* as a reproach to the Trojans. These speeches bring out the drama of the story by

allowing us to empathise with the characters.

This is an example answer. You may have selected different features. The scenes (the feast, the Cyclops bathing his eye) would be one possibility, or even the use of meter at certain points to make the words sound like something happening – if you can quote examples. If you chose to cover the whole of Book III in your answer it will be different again.