*The Aeneid* – Books 5-8

Before you move on, think about key terms or phrases that describe the **theme**

**s** Virgil has been developing so far in the first 4 books of the Aeneid. See if you detect a development in the conflict between duty and self-indulgence. (*pietas* / *furor*)

**Book 5**

1. They have been blown off course *again,* to another stop on Sicily. What is the significance of this. (pp 153-154)

2. Read the description of the foot race (Lines 351-403). How does Aeneas calm Salius' anger ?

3. Read Lines 663-708 --- what is the purpose of these games? *Quote specific lines to show this.*

4. Why were many of the Trojans left behind in Sicily? How is Aeneas encouraged to go on? (L. 919 -959)

5. What happens at the end of Book 5?

**Book 6** *The Journey to the Underworld* – Aeneas has been told to go there to find his father and get advice from him. In the last section of this book Anchises tells Aeneas what the destiny of Rome is. He also talks about the reincarnation, etc. In the Rome of Virgil’s time some Pythagorean ideas in Plato (see the last part of Bk 10 in The Republic) had been combined with Stoicism. These concepts have been popularized again today in New Age Philosophy.

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1. What must Aeneas do in order to go to the Underworld?

2. What might the purpose be of going down there?

3. What is Aeneas’ attitude toward Anchises and his fate?

4. Discuss any themes or motifs here that you find interesting.

5. At this point it would be helpful to outline the overall plot of the first 6 books of the Aeneid.

**Book 7:** *Beachhead in Latium*

1. Where have they arrived? (see L. 28-39)

2. Why did King Latinus change the plan and seek Aeneas for a son-in-law? (L. 79-89 & 106-108)

3. What does Aeneas ask of K Latinus? (L. 261-263)

4.Who was responsible for stirring up Turnus to war? How?

5. What was King Latinus reaction to Turnus' call for war? (see L. 676-696)

**Book 8:** *The Shield of Aeneas*

Read Pages 241-245

1. At the beginning of book 7 Aeneas is elated to finally find the Tiber river –now what is his mood (see top of pg 242)?

2. Who or what is speaking to him in Lines 37-72?

3. In lines 113 – 129 a key character is introduced. Briefly describe him:

**Read Pg. 262 – 265**

Aeneas receives the shield; read his reaction to it (top of pg 262 and end of chapter).

Think of what this shield symbolizes. How can we contrast this with the kind of burden he had on his shoulders at the end of Book 2?