

(Revised 6/09)

## Advanced Placement Vergil Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Vergil!

The objective of the course, aside from reading over 1800 lines of Vergil's *Aeneid*, is to prepare for a rather difficult two-hour examination on sight-reading and the *Aeneid*. A required part of this course is the Advanced Placement exam, given nationally in the middle of May. Therefore, we do not have the full school year to cover this material. Each student will have to pay approximately \$85.00 for this exam. Financial assistance is offered to those who qualify. Taking the exam is a very sound investment in your future, as a passing grade on the AP exam counts for credit at some colleges, potentially saving you thousands of dollars in tuition.

The following 1,856 lines of the *Aeneid* will be read in Latin:

Book I: 1 – 519  
Book II: 1 – 56; 199 – 297; 469 – 566; 735 – 804  
Book IV: 1 – 448; 642 – 705  
Book VI: 1 – 211; 450 – 476; 847 – 901  
Book X: 420 – 509  
Book XII: 791 – 842; 887 - 952

All twelve books of the *Aeneid* will be read in English.

Over the summer, you should prepare by reading and taking careful notes on the introduction in *Our Latin Heritage IV*, pages 1 – 32 (including the “World of Vergil” illustrated insert, pages I-1 through I-16) and completing the attached question sheets pertaining to that reading. You should also read the entire *Aeneid* in English translated by Mandelbaum. Everyone will also need a 3 ring binder, 2 – 3 inch, for xeroxed copies of the text, etc. In addition, please have a spiral notebook for your translations and other notes.

Anything else in the book is yours for the reading: I recommend being ready to scan anything and everything (see pp. 476–477 on dactylic hexameter); literary terms, pp. 483 and following; appendix of basic grammar pp. 417 – 468; and Vergilian grammar pp. 469 and following.

If you feel that your grammar is weak, please review on your own in the grammatical appendix. Vergilian grammar is easier than Cicero or Pliny, but you still need to be firmly grounded in the basics in order to understand the exceptional grammatical uses in Vergil.

I look forward to working with you in September to ensure that your study of Vergil's *Aeneid* is a positive and meaningful experience!

Mr. Freed

**PART I: VERGIL'S WORLD**

## I. Pages 1 – 3

1. What situation did the assassination of Caesar bring about?
2. What did Antony immediately do?
3. Describe how Antony tried to obtain military power. Who upset his plans?
4. How old was Octavius when Caesar was murdered? What was his relationship to Caesar?
5. Describe Octavian's actions at the time of Caesar's murder. Who backed him?
6. Describe Antony's defeat.
7. Who made up the Second Triumvirate?
8. Where and by whom was the last battle to maintain the Republic fought?
9. What happened to Cicero?
10. What happened around 40 B.C. and how was it resolved?
11. What happened in 38 B.C.?
12. Describe Lepidus' fate.
13. What title did Lepidus hold until his death?
14. Who were Agrippa and Maecenas?
15. How did Antony divide up the east and how did Octavian use this against him?
16. What action did Octavian take in 32 B.C.?
17. Where did the final naval battle take place and who was victorious?
18. Describe the deaths of Antony and Cleopatra.
19. What title did Octavian assume in 27 B.C.?

## II. The Princeps: his Power and Glory (pages 3 – 6)

1. Describe Octavian's victory celebration of 29 B.C.
2. Describe the entertainment for the populace.
3. The doors of which temple were closed, and what did this act signify?
4. How did Octavian reorganize the government? Why did he do it in this way?
5. Describe the purge of 28 B.C.
6. What new regulation did Octavian impose on the Senators?
7. What does the term Princeps really mean?
8. Describe Octavian's actions before retiring and the Senate's reaction to his retirement.
9. What other powers did Augustus obtain although he had resigned his consulship?
10. Describe what powers Augustus was awarded in 18 B.C., 12 B.C. and in 2 B.C.
11. Describe Augustus' organization of the civil service.
12. How did Augustus organize the army?
13. What was the state of the treasure under Augustus?

## III. Religious and Social Reform (pages 7 – 8)

1. Describe the effect of Alexander the Great's conquests on the cultures he subjugated.
2. What does the term Hellenistic culture mean?
3. Describe Cleopatra's plans.
4. Define the terms *mores majorum* and *Romanitas*.
5. What observances did Augustus reinstitute in his use of religion for political reasons?
6. Define the following Roman virtues: *pietas*, *officium*, *gravitas*, *constantia*, *severitas*, *disciplina*, *industria*, *virtus*, and *clementia*.
7. Describe Augustus' reforms after 12 B.C.
8. Define *Divi Filius*.
9. Do you think that the types of reforms Augustus instituted would have worked or not? The answer is strictly your opinion. THINK ABOUT IT!

#### IV. Literature and Art (pages 8 – 12)

- 1) What type of education did Augustus receive?
- 2) How was Maecenas involved in the arts? Who was in the group of artists he gathered around himself?
- 3) Who was Asinius Pollio and what artists did he gather around himself?
- 4) Who was Messala and what writers did he gather around himself?
- 5) What patron did Ovid have? What is his most famous work and what is it about?
- 6) What are some of his other works? What finally happened to Ovid, and why?
- 7) Who was Livy and what did he write? Describe his work.
- 8) What unique place did literature achieve during the Augustan age?
- 9) For what did Augustus use art and architecture?
- 10) Describe the painters of this time.
- 11) For what quality were Roman busts and bas reliefs famous?

#### IV. Augustus: His Place in History (pages 12 – 13)

In a well-written paragraph, describe both the positive and the negative aspects of Augustus' rule.

## PART II: PUBLIUS VERGILIUS MARO

### I. The Life of Vergil (pages 14 – 15)

1. How, when, and where was he born? What was his family background?
2. Describe Vergil's early education.
3. Describe Vergil's education and professional activities between 48 and 42 B.C.
4. What happened to Vergil's family after the battle of Philippi?
5. Who helped Vergil and what was the result?
6. Where did Vergil spend most of his time writing?
7. How, when, and where did Vergil die?
8. What had Vergil instructed Varius and Tucca to do with his manuscript of the *Aeneid*?
9. What actually happened to the manuscript?

### II. The Works of Vergil (pages 16 – 18)

List the three major works of Vergil, the subject matter and the dates of publication.

### III. Introduction to the *Aeneid* (pages 18 – 29)

Read these pages carefully, and take notes. At this point you will not answer detailed questions, but you are responsible for the main facts about the Trojan War and the story of the *Aeneid*. You should also pay close attention throughout the year to how Vergil reworks the mythology of Homer.

## PART III: HOMER & LAVINIA

As an epic poem, the *Aeneid* is largely based on the two Homeric epics, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. You are strongly encouraged to read either or both of those epics over the summer. The more you read, the better you will be prepared to succeed. Choose a recent translation that you like; Fagles and Lombardo are two of my preferences.

Ursula K. Le Guin's 2008 novel *Lavinia* is a fun and easy summer read, which gives a voice to Lavinia, the daughter of King Latinus and Queen Amata, who rule Latinum in the era before the founding of Rome. I strongly recommend it.