

### Discussion Questions for the *Aeneid*

1. Aeneas' journeys parallel those of Odysseus in the *Odyssey*. Why do you think Virgil models Aeneas' journeys after those of Odysseus?
2. Aeneas journeys to the underworld in much the same way as Odysseus did in the *Odyssey*. Later, Dante and Eliot make use of Virgil's descriptions of the underworld and Fraser names his book after the golden bough Aeneas must present to Proserpina in order to gain admittance to the underworld. How has Virgil's depiction of the underworld influenced later writers?
3. How does Virgil explain the animosity of the Romans and Carthaginians? Is this explanation believable?
4. While in Hades and the Elysian Fields, Aeneas does not meet Hector. Why does Virgil not arrange a meeting between Aeneas and Hector?
5. Why does Virgil have Aeneas leave Hades through the gate of Ivory rather than the gate of Horn? In the *Odyssey*, Penelope says Odysseus' dream is from the gate of Ivory. Aeneas founding of Rome becomes reality, and Odysseus' dream which he relates to Penelope also comes true, so why do both enter through the gate of Ivory?
6. Anchises tells Aeneas about the fate and rebirth of souls, which was first propounded by Plato. Why does Virgil use this idea when he tells Aeneas of the founding of Rome?
7. Why does Virgil link the founding of Rome to the Trojans?
8. Anchises says that the glory of Rome will consist of the ways of peace and the Roman ability to spare the defeated and defeat the proud in war. Is this an apt description of the Roman Republic, and later, the Empire?
9. Why does Virgil pattern the games for Anchises after the Greek games for Patroclus in the *Iliad*?
10. In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus was known as the man of sorrow. In the *Aeneid*, Aeneas is known as the man of piety. How are these two characters alike, and how are they different?