

READING 2

The rest of the Vergilian passages in this book will no longer feature the words in parentheses and the use of special fonts. Use the notes below the poem to help you.

After informing Aeneas and Achates that they are on the shore of Africa and that their missing ships are safe, Venus hides them in a cloud so that they can travel into the city of Carthage safely. From a hilltop, the Trojans look down at the growing city. Vergil compares the Carthaginians building their city to a hive of bees. Aeneas admires the rising walls and expresses his envy of the Carthaginians, who have already mastered the difficulties of finding the land and resources to found a new city.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF CARTHAGE

VERGIL AENEID 1.421–440

Meter: Dactylic Hexameter

Mīrātur mōlem Aenēās, māgālia quondam,

mīrātur portās strepitumque et strāta viārum.

Instant ardentēs Tyrii: pars dūcere mūrōs

mōlīrique arcem et manibus subvolvere saxa,

425 pars optāre locum tēctō et conclūdere sulcō;

iūra magistrātūsque legunt sānctumque senātum.

Hīc portūs aliī effodiunt; hīc alta theātrīs

fundāmenta locant aliī, immānīsq̄ columnās

rūpibus excīdunt, scaenīs decora alta futūrīs.

NOTES AND VOCABULARY

Line 421: **mīror** (1) to wonder (at), admire

mōlēs, mōlis, f. mass, burden, structure, construction

māgālia, māgālium, n. pl. huts, hovels

quondam, *adv.* once, at some time

Lines 421–422: **mīrātur . . . mīrātur**: note the ANAPHORA here—as often—combined with ASYNDETON.

Line 422: **porta, -ae**, f. gate, door, opening

strepitus, strepitūs, m. noise, uproar

strātum, -ī, n. pavement, bed; in the phrase *strāta viārum*, *viārum* is a partitive genitive; translate “paved roads.”

Line 423: **īnstō, īnstāre, īnstīti** to urge on, press on (+ *dat.*)s, Inc. this sample was created

ardeō, ardēre, arsi, arsum to burn, be eager

dūcere: to extend; this and the following infinitives either depend on *īnstant* or are to be construed as historical infinitives.

mūrus, -ī, m. (city) wall, rampart

Lines 423–425: **pars**: This repeated *pars* in line 423 and in line 425 is in apposition to the *Tyrī* (line 423).

Line 424: **mōlior, molīrī, molītus sum** to work, effect, make, construct
subvolvō, subvolvere, subvolvī, subvolūtum to roll up

Line 425: **optō** (1) to choose, desire, hope (for)
tēctō: translate “for a house.” *Tēctō* is a dative of purpose. Note the SYNECDOCHE.
conclūdō, conclūdere, conclūsī, conclūsum to (en)close
sulcus, -ī, m. furrow, trench, ditch

Line 426: **iūs, iūris, n.** law, justice, decree
magistrātus, magistrātūs, m. magistrate, officer; *magistrātūs* is accusative plural.
legō, legere, lēgī, lēctum to choose, gather
sānctus, -a, -um sacred, holy, revered; note the ALLITERATION.
senātus, senātūs, m. senate, council of elders

Line 427: **portus, portūs, m.** port, harbor
effodiō, effodere, effōdī, effossum to dig out, excavate
theātrum, -ī, n. theater; poetic plural



STUDY TIP

Be careful to distinguish among these words that look so similar.

porta, portae, f. gate

FIRST DECLENSION

portus, portūs, m. port, harbor

FOURTH DECLENSION

portō (1) to carry

FIRST CONJUGATION VERB

Lines 427–428: **aliī . . . aliī**: some . . . others

Line 428: **fundāmentum, -ī, n.** foundation
locō (1) to place, locate, establish
immānis, immāne, huge
columna, -ae, f. column, pillar

Line 429: **rūpēs, rūpis, f.** rock, cliff, crag; (*ex*) *rūpibus*: the typical open-air theater of classical Greece (less frequently, Rome) was commonly excavated from a hillside.

excidō, excidere, excidī, excisum to cut out, destroy

scaena, -ae, f. stage, background; dative case; note the CHIASMUS.

decus, decoris, n. ornament, beauty, dignity; *decora* is in apposition with *columnās*.

© Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.

www.BOLCHAZY.com

©2016 Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. this sample was created
for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
This document will expire May 31, 2017.

VERGIL AENEID 1.421–440, CONTINUED

- 430 Quālis apēs aestāte novā per flōrea rūra
exercet sub sōle labor, cum gentis adultōs
ēdūcunt fētūs, aut cum liquentia mella
stīpant et dulcī distendunt nectare cellās,
aut onera accipiunt venientum, aut agmine factō
- 435 ignāvum fūcōs pecus ā praesēpibus arcent;
fervet opus redolentque thymō fragrantia mella.
“Ō fortunātī, quōrum iam moenia surgunt!”
Aenēās ait et fastīgia suspicit urbis.
Īnfert sē saeptus nebulā—Mīrābile dictū!—
- 440 per mediōs, miscetque virīs neque cernitur ūllī.

NOTES AND VOCABULARY

Line 430: **quālis, quāle** just as, such (as), of what sort, as
apis, apis, f. bee
aestās, aestātis, f. summer; *aestāte novā* is an ablative of time.
flōreus, -a, -um flowery
rūs, rūris, n. the country

Lines 430–431: (**tālis est labor illis**) **quālis (labor) exercet apēs**: this SIMILE is famous and is considered an EXTENDED SIMILE. The HYPERBATON is striking, with *quālis . . . labor* acting as a frame for the main clause. Vergil emphasizes the noun *labor* by postponing it until the end.



BY THE WAY

A SIMILE is considered an EXTENDED SIMILE when after making a comparison, the author then elaborates on the idea for several lines.

- Line 431: **exerceō, exercēre, exercuī, exercitum** to busy, train
sōl, sōlis, m. sun; day
adultus, -a, -um grown, adult
- Line 432: **ēdūcō, ēdūcere, ēdūxī, ēductum** to lead forth
fētus, fētūs, m. offspring, brood, swarm
liquēns, liquentis liquid, flowing
mel, mellis, n. honey
- Line 433: **stīpō** (1) to stuff, crowd, stow
dulcis, dulce sweet, dear, fresh
distendō, distendere, distendī, distentum to distend, stretch
nectar, nectaris, n. nectar
cella, -ae, f. cell, storeroom