

9. The Sibyl begins her speech with a solemn address to Aeneas (“*Anchisa generate, deum certissima proles,*” 322). How does this address reflect what she has learned about Aeneas earlier in Book 6?
10. The importance of funerary rites (burial and/or cremation) for the dead appears several times in the *Aeneid* outside of this passage (321–30). From your reading of other sections of the poem, identify at least two other characters who die and whose funeral is described in detail, and in an essay analyze the significance of these scenes for the plot.
11. Vergil closes this episode with a description of Aeneas’ reaction to the Sibyl’s speech (331–32). How do these lines contribute to your understanding of Aeneas’ character?

6.384–425

12. As Aeneas and the Sibyl proceed, Vergil describes their location as “a silent grove” (*tacitum nemus*, 386). Why does he mention this detail? And is it consistent with the previous descriptions of the underworld in Book 6?
13. In 388–97, Charon addresses Aeneas alone, ignoring the Sibyl. Why do you think he doesn’t mention her? And why is he so focused on Aeneas?
14. In his speech (388–97), Charon alludes in passing to various features of the underworld landscape. Write out and translate at least three different words or phrases he uses to describe the place.
15. In 392–97, Charon alludes to the earlier and unwelcome visits of Hercules, Theseus, and Pirithoüs to the underworld. What does he say these characters did? Is there any evidence elsewhere in the *Aeneid* to substantiate his claim? And why does he think that Aeneas is comparable to them?
16. In 397, Charon alludes to the story of the goddess Proserpina (“*dominam Ditis*”). What associations does this goddess have in ancient myth? And why does she dwell in the underworld?
17. Although Charon questions only Aeneas, the Sibyl is the one who replies (399–407). Why do you think she does so? Use what you know about the three characters involved to explain her role in this scene.