

18. The Sibyl closes her speech by revealing the golden bough to Charon (406–7). Why is this object significant? Locate the passages earlier in Book 6 where it is described, and use them to explain the effect of the golden bough on Charon here.
19. When Aeneas boards Charon’s boat (412–14), Vergil emphasizes the contrast between the two—he is large, but it is small. What is the point of this contrast?
20. Once Aeneas goes across the river, he still must get past Cerberus (417–23). Who or what is this creature? How is he described, and what is most threatening about him? Write out and translate the words or phrases that support your answer.
21. The episode closes with two lines describing Aeneas’ escape from Cerberus (424–25). How do these lines contribute to your understanding of Aeneas’ destiny?

6.450–76

22. As the word *recens* in line 450 reminds us, Dido’s suicide had occurred not long before. Does Vergil provide enough information about the passage of time experienced by the Trojans in Book 5 for us to determine how long it in fact has been? You should read Book 5 in English to help you answer this question.
23. In line 455, Aeneas mentions the “*verus . . . nuntius*” that reported her death to him. How would he have received this message? And who might its bearer have been?
24. Is Aeneas’ speech (lines 455–66) a compelling self-defense or not? Discuss the rhetorical strengths and weaknesses of this speech. Can you think of anything more Aeneas might have said in his own defense, or any arguments against him that Dido might have used had she chosen to speak in response?
25. Vergil uses imagery associated with darkness and light repeatedly in Book 6 to describe the events in Cumae and in the underworld. Focusing on this scene (450–76), analyze Vergil’s use of this imagery. How does it contribute to the characterization of both Dido and Aeneas here?