**The Wanderings of Aeneas**

*The first half of Virgil’s Aeneid (Books 1-6) tell the story of Aeneas as a fugitive of Troy. Read the summaries of each book and try to think of what mythological parallels you have come across for each one:*

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|  | **Summary** | **Parallels** |
| **1** | * Virgil starts by saying he will sing of ‘arms and a man’, before asking the Muse why a man known for his piety suffers at the hands of the gods.
* Virgil explains that the cause of the suffering is Juno.
* Juno convinces Aeolus to unleash the winds on Aeneas’ fleet.
* A storm tears it apart until Neptune calms the storm.
* Aeneas and the Trojans wash up on the shores of Africa
* He meets Queen Dido, who falls in love with him thanks to Cupid.
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| **2** | * Aeneas tells Dido the story of Troy’s fall.
* He explains how the Greeks entered the city using Odysseus’ wooden horse trick.
* Aeneas fled the city with his father, Anchises, son, Ascanius, and wife, Creusa. He carried his father, who in turn held the Penates of Troy.
* In the flight Aeneas lost Creusa, whom he meets as a ghost.
* She tells him to go to Italy and found a new homeland.
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| **3** | * The Trojans reach Delos. They interpret an oracle of Apollo as meaning they should head for Crete.
* They learn this was a poor interpretation and set sail for Italy.
* On their way they fend off an attack from the Harpies.
* They meet another group of exiles, the Trojan prince Helenus and Hector’s wife, Andromache, who are doing surprisingly well.
* They skirt past Scylla and Charybdis thanks to Andromache’s advice.
* They meet an abandoned crew member of Odysseus on an island, which turns out to be the cyclopes’. They escape in the nick of time.
* Aeneas’ father dies and the story finishes with Aeneas’ shipwreck.
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| **4** | * Aeneas finishes the story but Dido is madly in love with him.
* The two live together until Mercury arrives to tell Aeneas that Jupiter has decreed he must leave for Italy.
* Dido is enraged by the news and refuses to believe it is anything other than a made up excuse.
* Aeneas leaves anyway and Dido commits suicide.
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| **5** | * In Sicily the Trojans hold games in honour of Anchises – a boat race, a foot race, a boxing match and an archery contest
* Juno convinces the Trojan women to set fire to the fleet but Aeneas prays to Jupiter, who sends rain to save them.
* Anchises’ ghost appears to Aeneas and tells him to visit him in the Underworld for a longer conversation.
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| **6** | * At Cumae, Aeneas meets a Sibyl of Apollo.
* With her help he finds a magical golden branch in a woods
* She takes him down into the Underworld through a cave.
* He is ferried across the Styx by Charon after showing him the branch.
* The Sibyl sends Cerberus to sleep and Aeneas sees the hell of Tartarus.
* He meets Dido, but she refuses to speak to him.
* Finally. he meets his father in the paradise of Elysium. Anchises foretells the future of Aeneas’ descendants (i.e. the Romans) and Aeneas returns to the world of the living.
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