



## AP<sup>®</sup> Latin: Vergil 2003 Sample Student Responses

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In the Aeneid, the deception by Sinon sets the fated plot of the epic in action, while Iris's deception contributes more to the purpose of Aeneas' fate than the hindrance she intends by it.

Sinon uses deception to bring about the downfall of Troy. A Greek, he aids Ulysses and the other Greeks with his lies. As the Trojans debate whether or not to bring into their walls the <sup>wooden</sup> horse filled with hidden Greeks, Sinon appears and convinces them to do so. He does this by pretending to cry and be an enemy of the Greeks, blaming his so-called ~~treason~~ treason on unfair persecution by Ulysses, and saying Ulysses plotted to kill Sinon his rival by telling the seer Calchas to name Sinon as a sacrifice. With this heartfelt speech he convinces the Trojans of his enmity to the Greeks and is thus able to make them think that bringing the horse inside will result in their victory rather than their loss. Sinon's purpose is thus achieved, as the Trojans are taken unsuspecting and their city is destroyed all as a result of his lies. After the fall of Troy Aeneas sets out with his ~~sp~~ ships and eventually fulfills his fate of founding the future kingdom of Rome. In achieving his deception and succeeding, Sinon enables the rest of Aeneas' travels and battles to take place as they were fated.

Iris's deception, intended to hinder the Trojans from arriving at Italy, only succeeds at first and eventually increases the strength and resolve of Aeneas' men. At Drapanum as the men play games, Iris preys on the discontent and fear of the women left alone on the beach. Disguised as an old woman of Troy she convinces them to set fire to the

Trojan fleet which would effectively trap the Trojans at Drapanum to convince them she says the prophet Cassandra appeared to her in her sleep and commanded her to do this. Iris's purpose, since she was sent down by Juno, is to delay or prevent the Trojans from achieving their destiny in Italy. However, though her deception is convincing enough to persuade the women to set fire to the boats, it results in increased motivation rather than delay. Aeneas' fervent prayer upon seeing the boats burning convinces Jupiter to send a storm, which puts out the fire and saves all but seven of the ships; thus is even Iris's immediate purpose defeated. The longterm results are also opposite to her intent. After the disaster Nautes tells Aeneas that the problem manifested by the women's actions can be solved by leaving behind all who wish to go no further (This solves both the issue of discontent and, by reducing the number of Aeneas' people, the issue of having seven fewer boats to carry them in.) After Anchises' ghost appears in his dream, Aeneas takes Nautes' advice and leaves behind all who are weak in body or spirit. Thus because of Iris' deception Aeneas leaves Drapanum with a stronger group of people making it easier to achieve his purpose.

Both deceptions by Sinon and by Iris, though they are intended to harm the Trojans contribute to Aeneas' eventual achievement of his destiny. Sinon achieves his immediate purpose but creates the need for Aeneas to go to Italy; Iris' deception instead of harming the Trojans ends up making it easier for him to get there. They both contribute although unintentionally towards Aeneas' glorious fate.



In Book Two, Venus sends her divine son Cupid to aid Aeneas. In order to ensure that the Carthaginian people will welcome the Trojans peacefully and embrace them as brothers, Cupid makes Dido, the leader of Carthage, fall in love with Aeneas. Disguised as Ascanius, the young son of Aeneas, Cupid puts his spell on Dido causing her to fall madly in love with the hero and thus saving Aeneas from harm in Carthage.

Iris, the messenger of Juno, comes down disguised as an elderly Trojan woman. At the command of Juno, Iris attempts to trick the Trojan women and elderly population to voice their dissent with sailing further and their desire to settle where they are. The goddess succeeds in her initial goal and convinces them to burn the ships. However only a few ships are destroyed and those who wished to stay were left while Aeneas carried on.

Venus's plan backfires when the love of Dido makes her jealous and spiteful. Aeneas then has to be warned to leave Carthage by Mercury due to Dido's rage over Aeneas's unwillingness to get married. Dido burns all of Aeneas's possessions left behind and vows vengeance on the descendants of Aeneas by all the generations to come of Carthage. Carthaginians, thus explaining the three punic wars.

Throughout the Aeneid, many characters appeared in disguise and deception. One such character was Cupid who was sent down by Juno. As you may already know, Cupid is the god of love who had magic arrows. He was responsible for causing the love Dido had for Aeneas. Since this is blind love, Dido had no control over her love for Aeneas. Juno desired this as to keep Aeneas in Carthage rather than go to Italy. However, this led to the unfortunate death of Dido when she learned that Aeneas was leaving Carthage.

Another character was Turna who was the sister of Turnus. She noticed that Turnus was being cornered by the soldiers so she disguised herself as the ghost of Aeneas. Turnus followed the ghost blindly and was led onto a boat which sailed him to safety away from the fight. ~~For she~~ She disguised herself in order to save him from dying.