



## AP<sup>®</sup> Latin: Vergil 2004 Sample Student Responses

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5A  
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While in Sicily, where Anchises ~~lives~~, the women were sent into a frenzy and attempted to burn their ships. Juno, who was known for sending women into frenzies, infected these women with the very rage she felt for Aeneas. In an attempt to leave the Trojans stranded in Sicily, so the destiny of Rome could never be completed, Juno once again made a rash ~~at~~ try through these women. This ~~try~~ threw them back a little, but did not stop Aeneas from reaching Lavinium.

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5B,  
V5

When Aeneas is fleeing the burning palace of Priam during Troy's fall, he spots Helen, trembling behind a pillar. Knowing that it was his woman's beauty that led to the war between Greece and Troy, and ultimately to Troy's downfall, Aeneas was filled with a rash rage. He immediately began to contemplate crushing her out of existence, and reached for his sword to strike the defenseless woman. Aeneas likely would have followed through with his execution had it not been for his mother Venus who repassed his hand with her divine will, and calmed his nerves, showing <sup>him</sup> that it would not be just nor pious to kill Helen. After this, Aeneas feels shame for wanting to kill her, and resolves to leave her be, obviously choosing a much more honorable path which holds true with his name "Pious Aeneas." But the fact remains that Aeneas was wavering pretty close to killing Helen, and had it not been for the guidance of his goddess mother, he may have chosen the path of violence and anger, and buried his blade in Helen's bosom.

During the siege of the Trojan camp in Latium by the Rutillians, Aeneas is absent, being with Evander and the Etruscans, and the Trojans are in a tight situation. The brave friends, Nisus and Euryalus, propose to sneak through the Rutillians at night and inform Aeneas of the present situation

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This proposition is very reasonable, and could have saved the Trojans much trouble, but Nisus and Euryalus, being young, acted rash in the middle of their wise plan. Wandering through the sleeping Rutillians at night, the two youths slaughtered many of their enemy. Although this action was obviously helpful, reducing the Rutillian numbers, it was quite risky, and far less important than reaching Aeneas. But the most rash action that happened was when Euryalus greedily stole one of the Rutillians' great helmets and vainly placed it on his head. After the Rutillians began to be roused by the actions of Nisus and Euryalus, the two boys fled, and likely would have been safe, but for Euryalus' new helmet, which glowed with the light of the moon, and allowed the Rutillians to pursue, and ultimately, kill them. Although these two boys proposed a very wise and brave plan, they wavered from their true goal of reaching Aeneas, and ~~succumbed to~~ succumbed to the temptation of slaughter and greed. For these rash actions they suffered death. Unfortunately for them, they did not have a ~~god~~ god to guide them in the right direction like Aeneas <sup>with</sup> his mother Venus.

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V5

In the example from Group A, the Trojan women attempt to burn their own ~~feet~~ fleet of ships in Sicily, a rash and foolhardy action that clashes with the reasonable behavior they should have exhibited. This incident occurs in Book V during the games of javelin, running, archery, and sailing that Aeneas hosts in honor of his father Anchises's death at Drepanum one year earlier. As the men enjoy their games, a group of Trojan women cluster on the beaches where the Trojan ships are docked to mourn Anchises. Juno in the heavens above, ~~sensing~~ sensing an opportunity for mischief, sends her messenger Iris down to them in the form of Beroe, an elderly but respected Trojan ~~noble~~ noblewoman. Iris as Beroe strikes a chord with the women and expresses their latent frustrations when she urges that they burn the ~~feet~~ ships to force the Trojan expedition to stay permanently in Sicily, thus putting an end to their wanderings and affording security and rest from homelessness and sea dangers. The women's rash behavior to give way to their fears of endless wandering by burning the ships is a catharsis for their weariness;

V5

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This rashness, however, causes tension between the reasonable view that burning the ships will only anger the Trojan leaders. The tension in this example also occurs in this the frustration of the women is reasonable and justified, but the rash behavior with which it is expressed is reprehensible.

In Group B, Amata exhibits rash behavior after Lavinia's engagement to Aeneas. In this example, Queen Amata becomes enraged when her husband King Latinus betroths daughter Lavinia to Aeneas; furthermore, Juno sends the fury Allecto to Amata in her sleep. Allecto seizes one of the serpents on her head as hairs and flings it at Amata; the snake entwines itself with the woman and inflicts a raging madness on Amata. Amata has reasonable reservations that her daughter should marry a foreigner, especially a homeless vagabond from Troy, but tension ~~and~~ arises in the story when she uses rash behavior - tearing through the town and inciting a band of fellow female Bacchantals - to express her fears. As Amata leads her followers into the hillsides and mountains surrounding Latium, she urges all

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V5

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the women not to give their daughters to Trojan suitors; she cries that Trojan men threaten the safety of their Latin daughters. This rash behavior (made even more rash by Amata's stripping off of her queenly garments) serves to illustrate the tension of ~~between~~ between rash and reasonable behavior. If Amata were reasonable, she would yield to inexorable Fate and accede to the marriage, realizing that to oppose the heavenly decrees would spell destruction for her people; however, she chooses a rash view, refusing to accept fate, and rash actions (tearing wildly throughout Latium), to counter the match between Trojan Aeneas and Lavinia.

In the Group 1 example, furthermore, the Trojan women create tension between the reasonable action of patiently accepting their sojourns until the ordained land of Italy is attached and the rash action of delaying the journey by burning the fleet, thereby defeating their own aims to hasten settlement. The tension between the urge to show uncontrolled emotions clashes with the need for self-control and endurance as the Trojans seek to fulfill their fates to establish Italy.