

AP[®] LATIN: VERGIL
2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question V4

- 6** This is an excellent, well-organized essay. It makes liberal use of specific, appropriate references from the Latin text throughout the passage, properly cited. These references support the analysis of how Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation. Occasional mistakes need not spoil the general impression of the essay. More important than the number of Latin citations are the quality and completeness of the discussion and the general coherence of the argument.
- 5** This is a good, strong essay with a discerning analysis of how Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation. The analysis is either not as sophisticated or not as well developed as a 6 or not quite as well supported with textual references from throughout the passage. The references from the Latin, properly cited, appear confident, and the essay reflects more than casual familiarity with the passage.
- 4** This is an adequate essay with some accurate analysis of how Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation. The discussion may be more descriptive than analytical. The Latin references, although perhaps scanty, are specific, accurate, and relevant.
- 3** This is a limited response that lacks adequate discussion of how Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation. The answer tends to rely on description. In general, the Latin support is weak, possibly misconstrued, inappropriate, and/or not properly cited. Alternatively, the student may write a good essay reflecting knowledge of the passage but fail to cite any Latin to support the answer.
- 2** The student recognizes the passage but presents a vague or weak discussion of how Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation. Statements are very general or irrelevant to the question. The student cites Latin but with only limited comprehension of the Latin in context or fails to cite any Latin at all.
- 1** The student understands the question but presents no meaningful discussion derived from the passage. Although no substantive argument is presented, the response does contain some correct information relevant to the question. The student demonstrates no understanding of the Latin in context or demonstrates a complete misunderstanding. The student may fail to cite any Latin or may provide only individual Latin words randomly selected.
- 0** The student gives a response that is totally irrelevant, is totally incorrect, or merely restates the question. The student demonstrates no understanding of the Latin in context.
- This is a blank space or off-task answer (e.g., drawing, personal letter).

Turnus meets a pitiful end at the hands of Aeneas in Book XII of *The Aeneid*. Vergil's portrayal of Turnus is in stark contrast to the merciless fighter that we had grown accustomed to reading about. Vergil describes Turnus as turning cold, growing speechless, and trembling as he realizes death is near.

Vergil begins the passage by describing a sort of out-of-body experience of Turnus. He ~~was~~ "doesn't recognize himself ^{neither} running nor going or lifting (the rock) with his hand or moving the huge rock" (*neque... moventem*; Lines 1-2). After ~~the~~ missing with the rock, however, Turnus' "icy blood hardened with cold" (*gelidus... sanguis*; 3). This is the first sign that Vergil gives of the desperation of Turnus. The warrior realizes he is now without a weapon and begins to fear the worst, his blood turning cold.

The next reference Vergil makes to the desperation of Turnus is in ~~the~~ simile. He says, "Just as in sleep, when ~~the~~ rest presses tired eyes in night" (*Ac... quies*; 6-7), and one tries eagerly to extend the course and "we succumb in the middle of trying" (*in mediis... succidimus*; 8-9), making a ^{comparison} ~~reference~~ to Turnus' inability to speak or plead for mercy despite his

attempts to do so, ("his tongue is not able ... nor does his voice or his words follow"; "non lingua valet ... nec vox aut verba sequuntur" - Lines 9-10) Turnus is tongue-tied as he is helpless at the hands of Aeneas, clearly another characteristic of desperation.

Finally, Turnus's worst fears are realized as there is nowhere for him to go. "The harsh goddess denies success to Turnus, whatever path he sought with strength." ("Turno ... negat"; 11-12). ~~Therefore~~, Turnus "trembles with fear to face death" (*metu tremescit*; 14) as he sees no path nor his helpful sister (16) to aid him. Vergil has backed Turnus into a corner, leaving him with no way to escape Aeneas, a prospect that would strike fear and desperation into the greatest of soldiers.

Descriptions such as cold blood, an inability to speak, and nowhere to go and no one to ~~turn to~~ ^{allow Vergil} create a desperate situation for Turnus and to portray the feelings he experienced before being killed by Aeneas.

In this passage, Vergil describes Turnus's failure to hit Aeneas with a huge rock which he hurls across the battle field. This failure is emblematic of Turnus's failure to win the war for the Rutulians and his ultimate death. Vergil conveys Turnus's desperation through his specific diction, his use of simile, and his description of Turnus's utter lack of strength, all of which make this once-great warrior seem weak and afraid.

Even from the first few lines, the passage is filled with a sense of despair - Turnus's blood runs cold ("frigore sanguis" line 3) when he realizes his own failure. Throughout the passage, Vergil describes Turnus with other words that connote failure, like "nequiquam" (line 7 - in vain) and "metu" (line 14 - fear). Perhaps even more descriptive is the simile in lines 6-9 ("Ac velut... succidimur" - "And just as in sleep, when languid quiet presses on the eyes at night, in vain we seem to wish to extend the desperate path and we fall tired in the middle of trying"). This very descriptive simile clearly demonstrates to the reader, who understands this phenomenon, just how tired, weak, and defeated Turnus really feels in this passage. Turnus has degenerated rapidly from the vicious, dangerous ^{warrior} ~~warrior~~ whom Alecto enflamed against the Trojans to a terrified, tired man. In line 14, Turnus literally trembles with fear ("metu... tremescit"). This also shows Turnus as desperate. The fact that the rock itself fails to strike Aeneas is but another failure - in line 5, Vergil describes this failure ("nec spatium... ictum", meaning

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"neither does it traverse the whole space, nor does it strike a blow"). The image of Turnus as a dangerous, deadly warrior is gone, replaced by an image of an ineffective, frightened, and ~~the~~ tired man.

Vergil's description of Turnus in this passage foreshadows his coming doom - Aeneas overcomes him easily in a duel and kills him, enraged that he is wearing the baldric of Pallas. The desperation Vergil creates comes from his diction, simile, and vivid description of Turnus's failure.

In this passage, Turnus is determined to slay Aeneas because Aeneas killed Pallas and stripped him of his shield. So, it is understandable that Vergil would use certain literary techniques to convey Turnus' struggle. Utilizing anaphora and graphic imagery, Vergil successfully accomplishes this task.

Lines 15-16 demonstrates Vergil's use of anaphora. The word "nec" is repeated several times, each time introducing an action taken by Turnus. Vergil uses ~~these~~^{this} continuous repetition to demonstrate that no matter how hard Turnus fights, he is not successful in his attempts. The "nec"s emphasize Turnus' failures, which only cause him to grow increasingly desperate.

Vergil also describes the battle in great detail, showing that Turnus is willing to do anything and everything possible to kill Aeneas. His descriptions of "gelidus . . . frigore sanguis" and "pertulit ictum" paint a violent, gory picture of Turnus' fighting. These images allow the reader to empathize with Turnus, and to sense his desperation as he seeks revenge.

Moreover, it is Vergil's use of anaphora and graphic images that clearly convey Turnus' desperate, futile attempt to slay Aeneas. These rhetorical devices not only convey desperation, but also greatly enhance the story of ~~Aeneas~~ the Aeneid.

AP[®] LATIN: VERGIL
2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question V4

Overview

Students were asked to analyze the ways in which Vergil conveys Turnus' desperation after failing to hit Aeneas with a rock, as described in *Aeneid* 12. 903–918.

Sample: 4A

Score: 5

This essay makes nice use of Turnus' physical responses to the situation in which he finds himself. It successfully analyzes Turnus' failure to recognize himself (paragraph 2) and the transformation of this unreal experience into the dream simile (paragraph 3). The essay then notes that Vergil returns to physical descriptions of Turnus' mental state (paragraph 4), and it ends with Turnus' desperation and abandonment (paragraph 5). The essay is well structured and supported throughout by accurate, properly cited Latin.

Sample: 4B

Score: 4

This is an adequate response to the prompt. The accuracy of the Latin citations lifted the essay beyond the level of a 3, but the choppiness and repetitiveness of the discussion kept it from rising above a score of 4. The focus on individual words (e.g., "*neququam*" or "*metu*") allows little scope for the level of analysis required by the prompt, and the essay therefore tends to provide more description than analysis.

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

This essay's discussion is hampered by the focus on Vergil's use of anaphora. While the clauses being negated would have served as the basis for a coherent analysis, arguments based on single words within the text, especially words as general as negative conjunctions, do not demonstrate adequate understanding of the Latin passage. The Latin cited in paragraph 3 is misinterpreted, and the essay never rises above the level of vague or weak discussion.