

## Comparisons in the *Aeneid*, Book V

In the writings of Virgil, as in the writings of Homer, there are numerous instances of metaphors (figures of speech with an implied comparison) and similes (figures of speech which use *like*, *as*, or *just so* in a comparison). Read the following passages from Book V of the *Aeneid* and identify what is being compared.

1. Line 186 ff.      . . . heaven echoed shouts, and channels  
Under the crewmen's pulling turned to foam.  
Abreast they cleft their furrows, all the sea  
Torn up by oarstrokes and the biting prows.  
The racing cars in a two-horse chariot race  
Are not so headlong to consume the field  
Once they have left the barriers – not though  
The charioteers shake out the rippling reins  
To give head to the teams, and hang above them,  
Bent to the whip.

\_\_\_\_\_ is being compared to \_\_\_\_\_

2. Line 676 ff.      The arrow flying in thin cloud caught fire  
And left a track of flame until, burnt out,  
It vanished in the wind – as shooting stars  
Will often slip away across the sky  
Trailing their blown hair.

(There are two comparisons in this passage.)

\_\_\_\_\_ is being compared to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is being compared to \_\_\_\_\_

3. Line 594 ff.      As thick and fast as hail, drumming on roofs  
In a big storm, were the old hero's blows  
With both hands battering and spinning Dares.

\_\_\_\_\_ is being compared to \_\_\_\_\_

4. Line 274 ff.      As a wild dove when startled into flight  
Beats her affrighted way over the fields –  
A dove whose cote and tender nestlings lie  
In a rock cranny – with fast clapping wings,  
But soon in quiet air goes floating on  
With wings extended motionless: just so  
Mnestheus, just so the Seabeast cleft the sea,  
Running for the home stretch, and just so  
She glided, borne by her own impetus.

\_\_\_\_\_ is being compared to \_\_\_\_\_



## **TEACHER'S KEY**

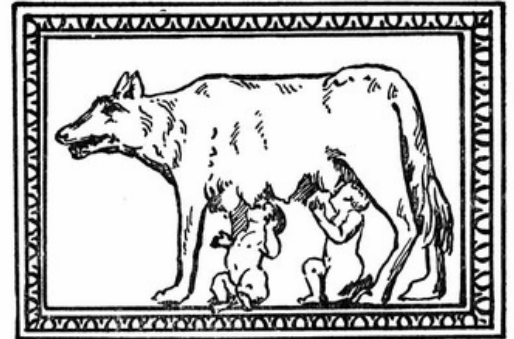
### **Comparisons in *The Aeneid* Book V**

1. The ship race is being compared to a chariot race.
2. Acestes' arrow is being compared to a shooting star.  
The trail of the shooting star is being compared to hair blown in the wind.
3. Entellus' attack on Dares is being compared to a relentless hailstorm.
4. The way the Seabeast moves is being compared to a startled wild dove.
5. Sergestus' injured boat is being compared to an injured snake.
6. Runners at the start of the race are compared to the movement of storm clouds.
7. Dares' attack on the huge Entellus is being compared to strategy used to assault a city on a height.
8. The complicated maneuvering required in the horse show is being compared to the twists and turns of the Labyrinth.  
The horses' movements are compared to those of dolphins.

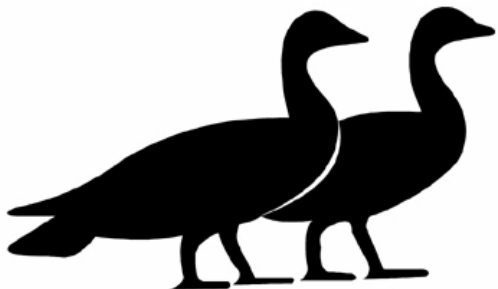
## Roman History Foretold

*Vulcan wrought "the future story of Italy" on the shield he made for Aeneas.  
Research the following events that are depicted on the shield.*

1. The Twin Boys and the Mother Wolf
2. Sabine King Tatius and the Sabine Women
3. Roman King Tullus Hostilius and Alban King Mettus



4. Etruscan King Lars Porsenna and Roman King Tarquin Superbus, Roman Hero Horatius Cocles and Roman Heroine Cloelia
5. The Tarpeian Rock



6. The Gauls and the sacred geese of the Romans
7. Catiline
8. Cato

9. Actium, Augustus Caesar, Agrippa, Antonius and his Egyptian consort (Cleopatra)

10. The queen pallid with death to come

11. Caesar in triple triumph



## **TEACHER'S KEY**

### **Roman History Foretold**

*If students are unable to find pertinent information, guide them to the following topics for descriptions of the events on the shield. These descriptions can be found in any book which focuses on Roman History.*

1. The story of founding of Rome
2. The story of the war between the Sabines and the Romans
3. The story of the treachery of King Mettus
4. The story of the Etruscan attack on Rome at the end of the monarchy
5. The story of Tarpeia's betrayal of the Romans during the Sabine War
6. The story of the invasion of Rome in 390 BCE by the Gauls
7. The story of Catiline's conspiracy against Rome which was foiled by Cicero
8. The story of Cato, a man who represented virtue and justice during the Republic
9. The story of the Battle of Actium where Augustus defeated Marc Antony
10. The story of the death of Cleopatra
11. The story of Caesar Augustus returning to Rome and the triple triumph to celebrate  
(1) conquering Dalmatia, (2) winning the Battle of Actium, and (3) conquering Egypt.