

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 _____