

***Aeneid* Study Questions**
Hum 110, Reed College
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1. Advanced Literary Analysis. One of the things that you will be asked to do in the paper topics this semester is a more sophisticated literary analysis. So, I would like to make sure that you have some new tools for approaching these questions. Today you should focus on Metaphor. One of the things that makes the *Aeneid* such an incredible text is the richness it gets from extended metaphors. "Metaphor" come from the Greek word for "transfer" or "carry across" (*meta* and *trans* meaning "across"; *phor* and *fer* meaning "carry.") A metaphor transfers the meaning of something by comparing it to something else. Most often metaphors compare something abstract to something concrete, thereby helping us get a better sense of the abstraction. (For example love to a rose. You might consider what this says about how our minds work.) For Friday, I would like you to pick a key metaphor from the *Aeneid*. (That is, a metaphor that gets used more than once, and becomes a sort of theme and connecting device throughout the text.) Some key metaphors are

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

2. Explicate a passage that uses what you feel is a key metaphor (one page). This is an informal assignment, but I would like you to type it and email it to the class (Hum110-Leibman), since your explications will be very helpful to your conference mates. To explicate means to unfold. In your unfolding of the metaphor I would like you to address 1) what is being compared. 2) what the known attributes are of each side of the comparison. (e.g. if he compare a lion to a person, what do we know about lions and what do we know about this person?) 3) how does this comparison enrich our understanding of this passage? (What is the purpose of this passage? To define a character? To set the scene? To increase tension? To set forth an argument. If so what one? etc.)

2. Genre. Both the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid* are epics. What are the differences between them (stylistic, narrative, historical, etc.)?

3. Structure. Represent the structure of the *Aeneid* graphically. Compare this structure to other texts &/or epics that we have read.