



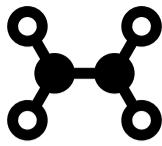
LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

EPIC

CLASS: 3A

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INTRODUCTION

In this course we will be looking at **Epic** and examining four Roman authors who wrote in this genre. The epic genre in Roman literature details legendary deeds and heroes and is written as a long poem in Dactylic Hexameter.

Perhaps the most famous epic poet is Virgil, whose work, the *Aeneid* has been mandatory reading for Latin students for over a thousand years.

We will also examine Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, published shortly after the *Aeneid*. He is perhaps the next most famous Roman poet.

Lucan wrote his dark epic *de bello civili* some decades later and later still Silius Italicus published the *Punica*. While both of these authors are less commonly taught, their contributions to the genre are notable and worthy of study.

Theme and HSC:

You will encounter epic poetry in the HSC, where Virgil's *Aeneid IV* is currently being taught. It is also a commonly taught option in the IB syllabus.

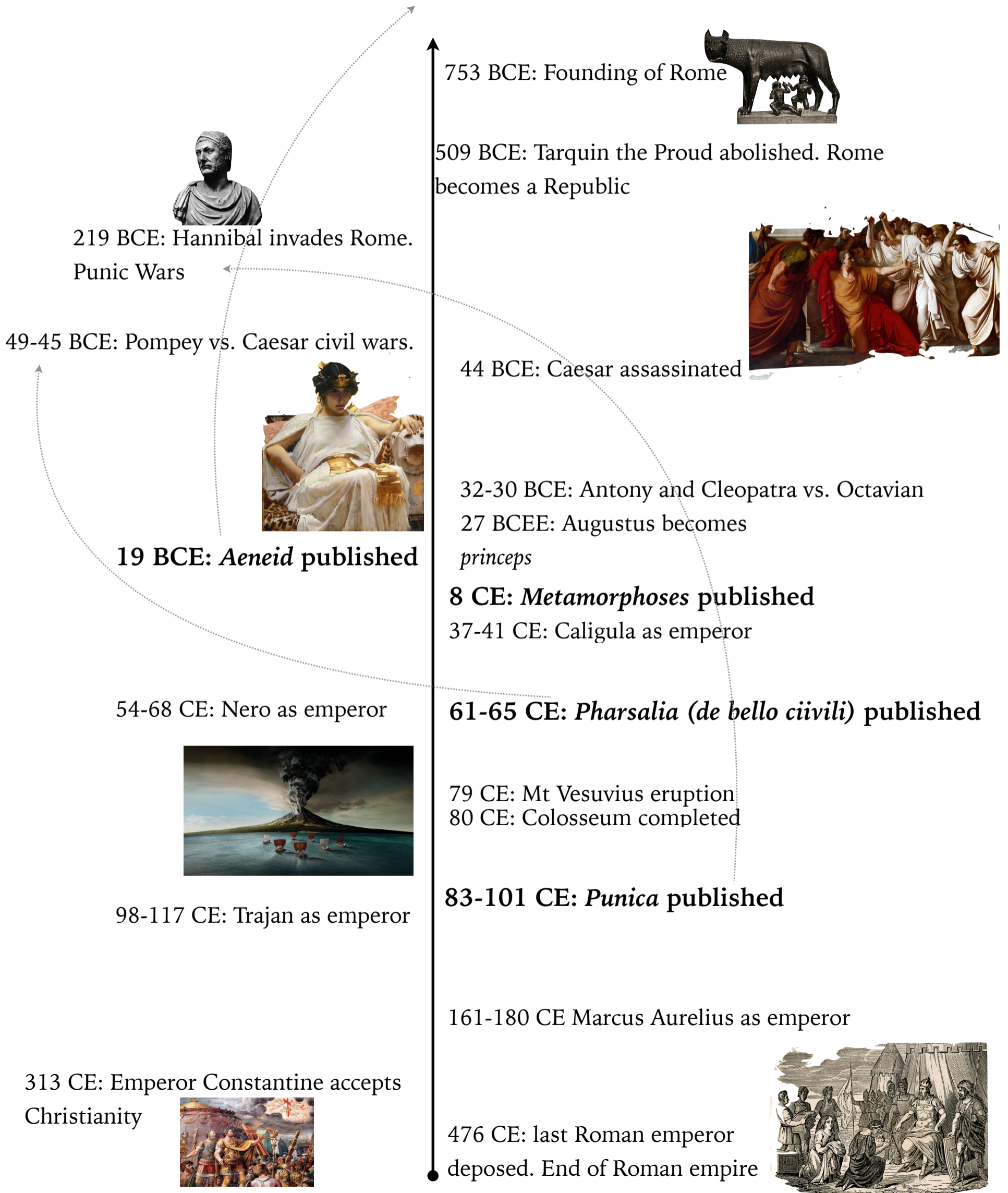
The extracts selected for this week are thematically linked. Throughout the week we will consider how the authors reflect and comment upon the power structures at the time of their writing. Some poets are overt in their messages, while others bury their opinions under layers of allusion and subtext.

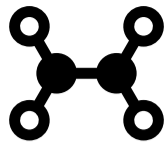
Using this booklet:

For each author we have provided an introduction, text in Latin and vocabulary. We recommend that you separate this booklet so that you can use the vocabulary separate from the text.

TIMELINE OF TEXTS

Epic has been written throughout Rome's history, we have placed the studied texts along a timeline of notable events in Rome's History.





INTRODUCTION TO VIRGIL (70 BCE-19 BCE)

Publius Vergilius Maro, better known as Virgil (or Vergil) was a Roman poet who composed his most famous poem, the *Aeneid*, during Augustus' rule. It follows Aeneas, the epic's hero, and his journey from Troy to the founding of Rome.

The poem itself consists of twelve books and is structured with great consideration of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Roughly, Books 1-6 tell an *Odyssey*-esque story of Aeneas' escape from the sack of Troy and his adventures as he and his people wander the Mediterranean, searching for a new home.

Books 7-12 are the *Iliad* portion of the tale, detailing the politics, conflicts, wars and duels that ensued to decide who would rule the land once Aeneas arrived in Italy.

Extracts in this booklet come from Book 6 and Book 10.

In Book 6, Aeneas visits the underworld, where he encounters the spirits of heroes dead and heroes yet to be born. Here he learns his place within the future history and glory of Rome.

In Book 10, Aeneas is in the heat of battle and we will read what happens when the leader is overcome by grief and rage.

.....

Virgil wrote this epic poem during the reign of Augustus (formerly known as Octavian). Rome had recently emerged from a series of civil wars and political upheavals and was enjoying relative peace. In its recent history was the invasion of Hannibal and Octavian's war against Antony and Cleopatra (*these are important to note, particularly when studying Book IV for the HSC*).

Virgil died before he could finish editing the work and, upon his deathbed, asked for the manuscript to be burned. This, evidently, did not occur.

It was likely published at Augustus' request after Virgil's death in 19 BCE and remains the most famous and most studied Latin epic poem. Virgil was also the author of two other surviving works of poetry, the *Georgics* and *Eclogues*.

VIRGIL - AENEID VI.789-795, 854-871

Yes, and a child of Mars will join his grandfather to accompany him, Romulus, whom his mother Ilia will bear, of Assaracus's line. See how Mars's twin plumes stand on his crest, and his father marks him out for the world above with his own emblems? Behold, my son, under his command glorious Rome will match earth's power and heaven's will, and encircle seven hills with a single wall, happy in her race of men: as Cybele, the Berecynthian 'Great Mother', crowned with turrets, rides through the Phrygian cities, delighting in her divine children, clasping a hundred descendants, all gods, all dwelling in the heights above. "Now turn your eyes here, look at this race, your Romans,

Source: poetryintranslation.com

.....Hic Caesar et omnis Iuli

progenies magnum caeli ventura sub axem. 790

Hic vir, hic est, tibi quem promitti saepius audis,

Augustus Caesar, Divi genus, aurea condet

saecula qui rursus Latio regnata per arva

Saturno quondam, super et Garamantas et Indos

proferet imperium:..... 795

...

Sic pater Anchises, atque haec mirantibus addit:

"Aspice, ut insignis spoliis Marcellus opimis 855

ingreditur, victorque viros supereminet omnes!

Hic rem Romanam, magno turbante tumultu,

sistet, eques sternet Poenos Gallumque rebellem,

tertiaque arma patri suspendet capta Quirino."

Aeneas asks why a dark shadow hovers over Marcellus's head and why his eyes are downcast.

Tum pater Anchises, lacrimis ingressus obortis:

"O gnate, ingentem luctum ne quaere tuorum;

ostendent terris hunc tantum fata, neque ultra

esse sinent. Nimium vobis Romana propago 870

visa potens, Superi, propria haec si dona fuissent.

VIRGIL - AENEID X.557-564, 595-604

Then Tarquitus, exulting in his gleaming arms came up, whom the nymph Dryope had borne to Faunus, he placed himself against raging Aeneas. But he, with his spear drawn back, crushed his armour and the huge weight of his shield; then he strikes off the head which was begging in vain and preparing to say much, and rolling the warm body on the ground, standing over it said these things from his hostile heart:

“istic nunc, metuende, iace. Non te optima mater
condet humi patrioque onerabit membra sepulchro:
alitibus linquere feris aut gurgite mersum
unda feret piscesque impasti volnera lambent.” 560

Protinus Antaeum et Lucam, prima agmina Turni,
persequitur fortemque Numam fulvumque Camertem,
magnanimo Volcente satum, ditissimus agri
qui fuit Ausonidum et tacitis regnavit Amyclis....

Liger and his brother Lucagus' chariot has been destroyed by Aeneas. Lucagus has been speared and Liger pleads for his life...

...frater tendebat inertis 595

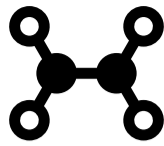
infelix palmas, curru delapsus eodem:
“Per te, per qui te talem genuere parentes,
vir Troiane, sine hanc animam et miserere precantis.”

Pluribus oranti Aeneas: “Haud talia dudum
dicta dabas. Morere et fratrem ne desere frater.” 600

Tum latebras animae pectus mucrone recludit.

Talia per campos edebat funera ductor
Dardanius, torrentis aquae vel turbinis atri

more furens...



INTRODUCTION TO OVID (43 BCE-17/18 CE)

Publius Ovidius Naso was a Roman poet who came to prominence during Augustus' rule. A number of Ovid's works survive, but we will be focusing on a section from the final book of his epic, the *Metamorphoses*.

The *Metamorphoses* was published shortly before Ovid's exile from Rome in 8 CE and contains a number of retellings of Greek and Roman myths. Although we will not have a chance to look at it this week, Ovid even writes his own version of the *Aeneid* in snippets from Books XIII and XIV (13.623 – 14.573). We will be translating an extract from Book XV on Caesar's deification.

Ovid, like Virgil, wrote under the reign of Augustus, but fell out of favour and was exiled by the emperor. Nobody knows for certain what happened, but Ovid writes that it was due to a *carmen* and an *error*. Some speculate that his famous work, *ars amatoria*, a risqué set of poems about seduction and dating, was part of the reason.

Ovid continued to write poetry during his exile, and despite his desire to return home, he was not recalled and died in exile in 17 or 18 CE.

Ovid's style is noticeably more playful than that of Virgil and it is interesting that he wrote the *Metamorphoses* in the epic genre as it is distinctly lighter in tone than the *Aeneid*.

OVID- METAMORPHOSES XV.816-828

Venus has helplessly watched her descendant, Julius Caesar, murdered in the senate. She is distraught that such a thing could happen to such a man, so Jupiter intercedes and offers these words of consolation to her.

“hic sua complevit, pro quo, Cytherea, laboras,

tempora, perfectis, quos terrae debuit, annis.

ut deus accedat caelo templisque colatur,

tu facies natusque suus, qui nominis heres

impositum feret unus onus caesique parentis 820

nos in bella suos fortissimus ultor habebit.

Illi auspicis obsessae moenia pacem

victa petent Mutinae, Pharsalia sentiet illum.

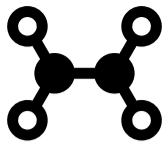
Emathique iterum madefient caede Philippi,

et magnum Siculis nomen superabitur undis, 825

Romanique ducis coniunx Aegyptia taedae

non bene fisa cadet, frustra erit illa minata,

servitura suo Capitolia nostra Canopo.”



INTRODUCTION TO LUCAN (39 CE-65 CE)

Marcus Annaeus Lucanus, known to us as Lucan, was the son of Marcus Annaeus Mela and grandson of The Elder Seneca, who witnessed the final two decades of Republican civil war and the reigns of Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE) and Tiberius (14-37 CE).

Lucan himself was born during the reign of the emperor Gaius (or Caligula) (37-41 CE) and was initially successful in the early years of Nero's reign. He was considered a prodigious talent and had a bright future in literature. Disaster struck, however, in 65 CE, when Lucan and his uncle, Seneca the Younger, were forced to die by suicide after being embroiled in a conspiracy to assassinate Nero.

Lucan's only surviving work is the *De Bello Civili*, which we will be introduced to this week. It is, in much of its content and style, a departure from the epics of Virgil and Ovid; however, you can read about the enduring influence of these earlier works on Lucan's epic of civil war in the commentary provided.

The poem survives to us unfinished, and its sombre treatment of the horrors of civil war is both an influence of earlier works and a product of the political instability experienced in the later years of Nero's reign. The subject matter of the civil war started between Caesar and Pompey is notable for the epic genre. Lucan also treats the involvement of the gods completely differently to Virgil and Ovid.

Our extracts will examine the deaths of Crassus (Pompey and Caesar's ally) and Julia (Caesar's daughter and Pompey's wife) and the resulting political fallout.

Lucan introduces the second of the four causes he proposes for the civil war between Caesar and Pompey (49 – 45 BCE): the deaths of Crassus and Julia. Crassus is significant as the third member – alongside Caesar and Pompey – of the informal First Triumvirate formed in 60 BCE, and Julia is the sister of Caesar and wife of Pompey.

LUCAN - DE BELLO CIVILI (PHARSALIA) 1.98-120

temporis augusti mansit concordia discors;

paxque fuit non sponte ducum. Nam sola futuri

Crassus erat belli medius mora. Qualiter, undas 100

qui secat et geminum gracilis mare separat Isthmos,

nec patitur conferre fretum; si terra recedat,

Ionium Aegaeo franget mare: sic, ubi, saeva

arma ducum dirimens, miserando funere Crassus

Assyrias Latio maculavit sanguine Carras, 105

Parthica Romanos solverunt damna furores.

more than you believe was done in that battle, Parthians,

you gave civil war to those defeated. The kingdom is divided.

by steel: and the fortune of this powerful people

who contain the sea, the lands, the whole globe 110

didn't have space for two. nam pignora iuncti

sanguinis, et diro ferales omine tedas

abstulit ad manes, Parcarum, Iulia, saeva

intercepta manu. Quodsi tibi fata dedissent

maiores in luce moras, tu sola furentes 115

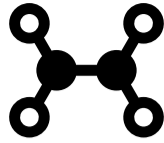
inde virum poteras atque hinc retinere parentem,

armatasque manus excusso iungere ferro,

ut generos mediae soceris iunxere Sabinae.

morte tua discussa fides, bellumque movere

permissum ducibus. Stimulos dedit aemula virtus. 120



INTRODUCTION TO SILIUS ITALICUS

(25/29-101/106CE)

Tiberius Catus Asconius Silius Italicus was a Roman poet writing during the Flavian dynasty (69-96 CE). His only surviving poem is a 17-book epic, *Punica*, to which we will be introduced this week. This poem is an epic retelling of the Punic wars between Hannibal and Carthage against Rome.

Relatively little is known about his life, but he seems to have had an active political career under the emperors Claudius (41-54 CE), Nero (54-68 CE), and Vespasian (69-79 CE).

The *Punica* was likely written in the later years of the reign of Domitian (c.96 CE). The epic poem was no doubt influenced by the tyranny experienced under Nero's, and especially, Domitian's reign, though Silius seems to have enjoyed a successful career under the intervening emperor, Vespasian.

Some further details about the structure of the poem and Silius' sources are provided in the class materials. We will especially think about the influence of Virgil and Lucan's earlier work on the construction of the *Punica*.

SILIUS ITALICUS- PUNICA 1.1-23

This section is the beginning of the proem of Silius Italicus' work. We see in these opening lines some clear references to Virgil's Aeneid. For example, the language of the opening line, the references to Aeneas, Dido and the Carthaginians are clear indications of intertextuality between the two poems.

Ordior arma, quibus caelo se gloria tollit

Aeneadum, patiturque ferox Oenotria iura

Carthago. da, Musa, decus memorare laborum

antiquae Hesperiae, quantosque ad bella creavit

et quot Roma uiros, sacri cum perfida pacti

gens Cadmea super regno certamina mouit,

quaesitumque diu, qua tandem poneret arce

terrarum Fortuna caput. **Three times in sinister wars,**

the Carthaginian leaders broke the treaty, sworn before Jove

and broke the agreements of the senators and that 10

impious sword three times persuaded them to break and violate the agreed on peace.

but in the middle war the the races worked in turn toward each

others destruction and end. Those who would eventually be

given victory were closer to peril. reserauit Dardanus arces

ductor Agenoreas, obsessa Palatia uallo 15

Poenorum ac muris defendit Roma salutem.

Tantarum causas irarum odiumque perenni

seruatum studio et mandata nepotibus arma

fas aperire mihi superasque recludere mentes.

iamque adeo magni repetam primordia motus. 20

Pygmalioneis quondam per caerula terris

pollutum fugiens fraterno crimine regnum

fatali Dido Libyes appellitur orae.

VOCABULARY (TEAR OUT)

This vocabulary list is compiled of words found in these extracts. While care has been taken to gloss every word, if you find yourself stuck, consider visiting www.wiktionary.org or https://www.lexilogos.com/english/latin_dictionary.htm

Aegyptus –a –um	Egyptian, of Egypt
ager agri m.	field
agmen agminis n.	line (of march), column; army; multitude, throng
ales –itis m./f.	large bird, bird of prey; an omen or augury
Amyclae –arum f.	Amyclae, a town of Latium
anima animae f.	a breeze or breath of air; the air; wind or blast of the bellows; breath (of life); soul
Antaeus –i m.	Antaeus, a Latin, slain by Aeneas
aqua aquae f.	water; sea, lake; river, stream; rain, rainfall (pl.), rainwater; spa; urine
arripio –ere –ui arreptum	to snatch, seize
Ausonides –ae	Ausonians or primitive people of lower Italy; Italians
auspiciu(m) auspici(i) n.	divination (by the flight of birds); the legal authority of a general, (pl.) the auspices
aut; aut...aut	or, either...or
bellu(m) (duellu(m)) belli n.	war
bene; melius, optime	well, better, best
biiugis –e	yoked two together
bonus –a –um	good
cado cadere cecidi casu(m)	to fall, sink; die, be killed; derive from
caedes caedis f.	murder, slaughter, massacre; assassination; feuding; slain, victims; blood, gore
caedo caedere cecidi caesus	to chop, hew, cut out/down/to pieces; strike, smite, murder; slaughter; sodomize
campu(m) campi m.	(flat) plain; short for Campus Martius; elections; military exercises; recreation
Canopus –i m.	Canopus, an island town in Lower Egypt, on the western mouth of the Nile
Capitolium –ii n.	the Capitol
castra castroru(m) n. (rarely –ae f.)	(military) camp; several soldiers' tents situated together; an encampment
coniunx coniugis f.	spouse, mate, consort; husband, wife, bride, fiancée
currus currus m.	chariot
Dardanus (Dardanius) –a –um	Dardanian, Trojan; subst., the Dardanian; Aeneas; the Trojan, for the nation
delabor –lapsus sum	to glide, slip, or fall down; descend; fall in, with, upon
desero deserere deserui desertus	to leave / depart / quit / desert; forsake / abandon / give up; withdraw support, let down; cease to be concerned with; fail / fall short; (passive w / abl.) be without / deprived
dictu(m) dicti n.	word; saying
dives divitis	rich / wealthy; costly; fertile / productive (land); talented, well endowed; (masc. as sb.) rich man
do dare dedi datus	to give; dedicate; sell; pay; grant / bestow / impart / offer / lend; devote; allow; make; surrender / give over; send to die; ascribe / attribute; give birth / produce; utter
ductor –oris m.	a leader; captain, commander; prince, king (> duco)
dudum	not long ago
dux ducis m. or f.	a leader, conductor, guide; general; commander
edo edere edidi editus	to eject / emit; put / give forth (buds); beget; bear (fruit); display / evince / exhibit; utter solemnly; pronounce / decree (oracle); deliver (message); issue (command); publish; disclose, tell, relate, make known; declare, make formal statement; cause
Emathius –a –um	Emathian, Macedonian, Thessalian
erumpo erumpere erupi eruptus	to break out, burst out
fero ferre tuli latus	to bring, bear, carry; endure; report (feritur it is said; ferunt they say)
ferus –a –um	wild, fierce
fido fidere fisis sum	to trust, believe
fortis forte	brave; strong
frater fratris m.	brother
frustra	in vain; for nothing, to no purpose
fulvus –a –um	reddish or tawny yellow; tawny; glowing, bright

funus funeris n.	burial, funeral; funeral rites; ruin; corpse; death
furo furere	to rage, be mad
gigno gignere genui genitus	to create, bring forth, beget, bear
gurgis –itis m.	a whirlpool, gulf; flood; wave, billow; rolling, raging sea, abyss; sea, ocean
habeo habere habui habitus	to have, hold; consider
haud or haut	not at all, by no means
heres heredis m. or f.	heir
humus humi f.	ground, soil, earth, land, country
idem eadem idem	same
impastus –a –um	unfed; hungry
impono imponere imposui impositus	to impose, put upon; establish; inflict; place in command; set; deceive, trick, impose upon (+ dat.)
iners –ertis	unskilled, lazy; unadventurous, unmanly
infelix infelicis	unfortunate, unhappy; unsuccessful
istic	there, over there, in that place; where you are;
iterum	again; a second time; for the second time
lambo –ere –i –itus	to lick; of flame, touch, lick
latebra –ae f.	hiding place, concealment
linquo linquere liqui	to leave, relinquish
Lucas –ae m.	Lucas, a follower of Turnus
madefio –fieri –factus	to become wet, be soaked
magnanimus –a –um	noble–spirited, brave, bold
mater matris f.	mother
membrum membri n.	limb, member, part
mergo –ere mersi mersus	to dip, immerse, plunge, cover, overwhelm
metuo metuere metui	to fear, dread
minor minari minatus sum	to threaten, speak / act menacingly
misereor –eri miseritus sum	to pity
moenia moenium n. pl.	(city) walls
morior mori mortuus sum	to die
mos moris m.	custom, practice, habit; mood, manner, fashion; character (pl.), behavior, morals
mucro –onis m.	a sharp point or edge; point of a spear; a sword
multus –a –um	much, many
Mutina –ae f.	Mutina, a city in Cisalpine Gaul, now Modena
nomen nominis n.	name, account; noun
non	not
nos nostrum/nostri	we; us
noster nostra nostrum	our, ours
Numa –ae m.	Numa, the name of two Rutulian warriors
nunc	now
obsideo obsidere obsedi obsessus	to blockade, besiege, invest, beset; take possession of
onero onerare oneravi oneratus	to load, burden; weigh down; shower with accusations
onus oneris n.	load, burden; cargo
oro orare oravi oratus	to pray (to); to plead (before a court or assembly)
palma palmae f.	hand, palm
parens parentis m. or f.	parent, father, mother
patrius –a –um	father's, paternal; ancestral
pax pacis f.	peace; favor
pectus pectoris n.	chest, breast; heart
persequor persequi persecutus sum	to follow up, pursue; overtake; attack; take vengeance on; accomplish
peto petere petii/petivi petitus	to ask for, seek; attack; make for, go towards
Pharsalia –ae f.	town of Pharsalia
Philippi –orum m.	town in E. Macedonia, site of defeat of Brutus and Cassius (42 BCE)
piscis piscis m.	fish
precor precari precatus sum	to beg, pray
primus –a –um	first, foremost, best, chief, principal; nearest, next; [in primus = especially]
protinus or protenus	immediately, at once, forthwith

recludo –ere –clusi –clusus	to uncloseto open, freq.; throw open; reveal, disclose; unsheathe; cut or lay open
relinquo relinquere reliqui relictus	to leave (behind), abandon
satus –a –um	born of, sprung from +abl.; offspring, son of
sentio sentire sensi sensus	to perceive; feel
sepulcrum sepulcri n.	place of burial, tomb, grave
servio servire servivi servitus	to serve; be a slave to (+ dat.)
Siculus –a –um	pertaining to the Siculi, an ancient race, part of which migrated from Latium to Sicily; Sicilian (> Siculi)
supero superare superavi superatus	to overcome, conquer; surpass; prevail
tacitus –a –um	silent
taeda taedae f.	torch
talis tale	such, of such a sort
tandem	finally, at last;
tendo tendere tetendi tentum	to stretch, extend, direct (one's steps or course); stretch; (of musical instruments) tighten, tune
torreo –ere –ui tostus	to burn, scorch, roast, parch; rush, roll; of a river bank; p., torrens, entis, subst., a torrent, 7.567.
Troianus –a –um	Trojan
turbo (turben) turbinis m.	whirlpool, whirlwind; spinning top
Turnus –i m.	Turnus, the chief of the Rutulians
ultor –oris m.	avenger, punisher
unda undae f.	wave
unus –a –um	one, alone; single
vel	or; either...or; even; (conj.), or
vinco vincere vici victus	to conquer, overcome
Volcens –entis m.	Volcens, a Latin chief
vulnus vulneris n.	wound