



Vergil's Aeneid: Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6
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Readability Report

When considering the readability of a foreign language text book, the use of a readability formula (such as the Fry Formula) has little value. Such formulas are intended to be used with English-language material. What makes more sense is to consider the help the textbook provides for students. In the case of *Vergil's Aeneid: Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6*, the book provides students with considerable aid:

Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6, the book provides students with considerable aid:

1. The preface and introductory notes give an overview on the original Latin text and orthography used and outline the special features: vocabulary lists, macrons, grammatical appendix, abbreviations, and grammatical and syntactical terminology used.
2. The introduction provides important background information on Vergil: his life, his works, his influence, a timeline, and a bibliography. One section specifically addresses the background of the *Aeneid*. A listing of signs and abbreviations also is provided.
3. A map helps students visualize the wanderings of Aeneas.
4. An illustration is provided for each of the four books of the *Aeneid* that are covered. In addition, there are three other illustrations. All the illustrations provide visualization of the content and make connections to and with the Latin text. They also spur student interest.
5. An appendix of Vergil's meter, the dactylic hexameter, is provided.
6. Another appendix provides a glossary of rhetorical terms, figures of speech, and metrical devices mentioned in the notes.
7. A complete Latin to English vocabulary is provided.

Just as important, if not more so, is the help that students get as they work their way through the Latin text. Each Latin section has same-page vocabulary and notes, modeled after the highly praised Pharr method. Just in case that is not enough, a pullout section of high-frequency vocabulary gives students a handy resource should a vocabulary word's meaning elude them.

In short, this textbook provides students with the help they need to be confident in reading Vergil passages in the original Latin. Since they will not have to spend so much time on figuring out the translation, they can concentrate on the interpretation of this epic poem. The *Aeneid* is considered one of the greatest works of literature and students will have an opportunity to appreciate it.

Appropriateness for High School Students

The College Board selected the passages that are contained in this textbook and their position is that these selections are highly appropriate for high school students.

Students have much to learn from Vergil and his *Aeneid*. Vergil epitomizes the tensions between the real and the ideal, between individual passions and the larger goals of informed, judicious statesmanship

T. S. Elliot considered Vergil to be the classic of all Europe. *The Aeneid* is considered one of the greatest works of literature. Reading it, especially in the original Latin, will broaden students' perspectives of life's ambiguity, resolvable and unresolvable complexity, of horror as well as exaltation of human doings, of passion and violence in action as well as of philosophy evolved in contemplation. Reading Vergil will increase students' command of the Latin language and of the understanding of epic poetry.

Screening for Bias

Again, the College Board selected the passages that are contained in this text. The commentary is clearly written and objective and provides the context students need for working their way through the Latin itself so that they can then understand what Vergil wrote and value the beauty of the poetry and the concepts Vergil presents.