

## Classics 1B03 Close reading assignment #2

Your assignment is to write a concise yet comprehensive report on the one excerpt you choose of the two provided below. They are both excerpts from texts we have read that contains elements that are representative of the text as a whole. Write **no more than** three pages (12 point font, double spaced) and be sure to write in complete sentences and pay careful attention to paragraph structure. In this longer assignment, you will need to structure your work more attentively than in the first. You are **not** required to do any research for this assignment. Your response should draw on the lecture material and your tutorial discussions.

Your response should address (in this order):

1) context: briefly situate the gobbet in the work as a whole by noting what immediately precedes and follows it (you are *not* required to provide page numbers). You should identify any speaker(s) in the passage and briefly contextualize what they are talking about, or what the narrator is speaking about;

2) meaning: what are the main ideas relating to the character(s) and theme(s)? Are there key words, symbolic language, imagery?

3) significance: discuss how this particular gobbet speaks to our understanding of the work as a whole. In this section, it is often useful to refer to the identifying features of the passage (i.e.: the context) and to expand upon them. For example, does the gobbet contain important characters whose development is crucial to the development of the plot? Does it contain a discussion of an important moment in the plot? Does it somehow exemplify a key theme? Are there important features of epic poetry in the gobbet? If so, what is the purpose of those features?

30% of your mark will be for the content: have you correctly identified the passage and the important elements of it? Have you identified how the passage relates to or is representative of the work as a whole?

70% of your mark will be for style: is your work easily comprehensible? Do you express yourself clearly? Do you write in complete sentences, and are your paragraphs properly constructed? Is there a fluidity and ease in the structure of your writing, so that the reader clearly understands the point you are making and is unimpeded by stilted wording or poor grammar? Always aim for clarity of expression over flowery language or grammar. Be sure to proof **read** your assignment before submitting it.

Submit your assignment with a title page with the following information:

Classics 1B03, Gobbet Assignment  
Your TA's name  
Your Tutorial number (or day and time of your tutorial)  
Your name  
Your student number

1.

The first place we occupied was a grassy hollow – and we stayed there silent, not saying a word, so that we could observe everything without being noticed. From that place we had a pretty good vantage point. It was a little valley with cliffs all around, moist from the streams that were flowing through, and the place was covered in pines that provided lots of shade.

From there we had a good look at the Maenads, who were sitting there quite happily, with their hands busy at their work. Some of them were taking fresh ivy and bending it around their thyrsus, which had become undone and needed repairs; others were just like young horses that had been just released from the reins and were allowed to run around freely. That's how they ran, altogether liberated, shouting out their Bacchic songs to one another.

But Pentheus, that fool, couldn't quite see the group of women from where he was, and so he said – "Stranger, from where we are right now, I can't really see what these phony Maenads are up to. But over there on that hill, if I climbed up one of those towering pines, I'm sure that I could see the shameful acts of these Maenads more clearly."

2.

Finally he made a brief reply, and he said: "O queen, I won't deny that you deserve all the praise that I can offer in the world, and I'll never regret the memories that I have of you, my dear Dido, not as long as I'm able to have memories and am still alive and breathing.

But I'll state my case in a few words. I didn't expect to cover up my departure in secrecy – please throw that from your mind – nor did I ever take hold of the marriage torch or enter into a lawful marriage with you. You see, if the Fates had let me shape my life as I'd wished, then my first desire would have been to protect the city of Troy and the sweet remnants of my family, and then the lofty roofs of Priam would still remain, since I would have built a second Troy there, with my own hands, for the defeated Trojans.

But now the oracle of Apollo says that I have to take the noble land of Italy – so that is where my love now lies, and that is now my country. If you, a Phoenician, are so pleased by the sight of these rising towers here in Carthage and by your emerging city here in Libya, why then would you want to prevent the Trojans from fulfilling our desire to set up our new homes on Italian soil?"