

then be used and combined when practicing more advanced exercises and speeches. One of these *progymnasmata* was called an *impersonation*. The impersonation seeks to imitate the style and characteristics of the person making the speech. To compose an impersonation:

- Discuss or think through the characteristics of the person whose speech you are emulating.
- Read carefully through the speech or event that you are impersonating (in many cases you will be asked to write an impersonation of a speech that a person has not given, but could have made at a certain time).
- Put the book away and write the speech yourself.
- Read it to someone else.
- After reading it, explain how different personal characteristics of this person come through in your impersonation.

Be careful to remember what has happened in

In the times of Aeneas, people honored a relative who died by holding funeral games. Running was one of the popular events at these games. Aeneas held games to honor his father, Anchises.

the personal history of the character on which you are writing, and also remember what will happen in the future. You must remember to keep everything in the proper setting (i.e., you can not make the young George Washington say, "I will be the first president under the new Constitution of the United States," because when he was a boy, of course, neither the Constitution nor the office existed, let alone the country itself).

Aeneas had to tell a story of his great battle. Write an impersonation of Aeneas retelling his story. Incorporate at least two items: first, the emotion Aeneas was feeling as he recounted the past; and second, the sense of destiny Virgil meant to convey in this portion of the poem.



READING ASSIGNMENT:

Book 3

SESSION IV: RECITATION

Books 1–3

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions for factual recall:

1. What are some words used to describe Aeneas in the opening lines?
2. What are some words used to describe Juno?
3. According to book 1, lines 40–41, why is Juno angry?
4. What adjectives are used to describe the founding of the Roman people?
5. After surviving the storm and landing on the coast of Libya, Aeneas receives a visit from his mother, Venus. What does she tell him?
6. How are Aeneas and his companions received by Dido?
7. What story does Aeneas tell in Book 2?
8. What emotions are evoked as Aeneas tells the story?
9. The portion of the story in Book 2 ends with what sad realization?
10. After Aeneas and his companions leave Troy they sail to Thrace where a funeral is held. Whose funeral is it? How did his death come about?
11. What did Apollo tell Aeneas about where to go? How was this interpreted?
12. What was wrong with his father's interpretation? How does this reinforce a key theme of the Aeneid?
13. Aeneas continues telling his story to Dido. While he includes many details in his story, he is stressing one primary theme. What is that important point that drives his understanding of their plight?



READING ASSIGNMENT:

Book 4

