

GLOSSARY

This is a list of only the most important characters and places, to fill in some background where it seemed necessary and otherwise to summarize their roles in the Aeneid.

Abas	The name of two friends of Aeneas, one Trojan and one Etruscan; possibly also the name of a Greek warrior from whom Aeneas wins armor in a skirmish during the sack of Troy
Acestes	A Trojan hero who hosted Aeneas and his followers in Sicily and founded Acesta there
Achaea	A region in the northern Peloponnese; <i>Achaeans</i> is often used to refer to the Greeks generally, especially those who besieged Troy
Achaemenides	A Greek who was stranded on the island of the Cyclopes by Ulysses and later rescued by the Trojans
Achates	Aeneas' retainer
Acheron	A river (or a lake) in Hades
Achilles	Son of the hero Peleus and the sea nymph Thetis; the greatest Greek warrior at Troy; slayer of the Trojan champion Hector
Actium	A headland in Acarnania in Greece with a temple of

	Apollo, near which Octavian, later called Augustus Caesar, defeated the Roman general Antony and the Egyptian ruler Cleopatra in a naval battle in 31 B.C. to become the uncontested ruler of Rome
Adriatic	The sea between Italy and the Balkan peninsula (where modern Serbia and Croatia are located)
Aegean	The sea between Greece and Asia Minor (where modern Turkey is located)
Aeneas	The son of the Trojan prince Anchises by the goddess Venus; he established in Italy the dynasty that would found and rule Rome
Aeolia	An island ruled by Aeolus, master of the winds; in the <i>Aeneid</i> , it is probably equivalent to Lipari, north of Sicily
Aeolus	A god, master of the winds
Agamemnon	King of Mycenae and head of the Greeks besieging Troy; he was murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her lover Aegisthus on his return from Troy
Agenor	The founder of Dido's dynasty in Tyre
Agrippa	A politician and general of first-century B.C. Rome and a close associate of Augustus Caesar
Ajax	Two warriors by this name fought for the Greeks at Troy: Telamonian Ajas, or Ajax the Great, of Salamis; and Ajax the Lesser, of Locris, who raped Cassandra and was killed by Minerva, from whose temple he had dragged her along with the Palladium (sacred image of the goddess)
Alba or Alba Longa	The pre-Roman settlement of the Trojans in Italy
Albula	A pre-Roman name for the Tiber
Albunea	Both a grove and a fountain in Latium
Alcides	"Descended from Alcaeus," indicating Hercules
Allecto	One of the Furies
Alpheus	A Greek river that was believed to flow underground to Sicily
Amata	The queen of Latium, wife of Latinus and mother of Lavinia
Amazons	Woman warriors and allies of the Trojans
Anchises	The father of Aeneas
Andromache	Wife of the Trojan champion Hector

Anna	Sister of Dido
Antony	A Roman general who, along with the Egyptian ruler Cleopatra, was defeated by Octavian (later called Augustus Caesar) at the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C.
Apollo	Also Phoebus; the god of music, medicine, light, prophecy, and archery; twin brother of Diana and son of Jupiter and Latona; father of the healer Asclepius
Arcadia	A semi-wild district in the central Peloponnesus, the original home of Evander, king of Pallanteum in Italy
Ardea	City of the Rutulians and home of Turnus
Arethusa	The fountain in Sicily through which the Greek river Alpheus emerges
Argos	A kingdom in the Greek Peloponnesus; Greeks are often referred to as Argives
Argus	A monster with a hundred eyes, assigned by Juno to guard Jupiter's lover Io after he changed her into a cow to hide her from Juno; he was killed by Mercury
Argyripa	Another name for Arpi
Arpi	Also called Argyripa; an Italian city founded by Diomedes
Ascanius	Another name for Iulus
Assaracus	A Trojan king and ancestor of Aeneas
Astyanax	The infant son of Hector and Andromache who was killed by Neoptolemus after the fall of Troy
Atlas	The Titan who holds up the sky
Atreus	The father of Agamemnon and Menelaus
Augustus Caesar	The title adopted by Octavian when he became the first Roman emperor; the <i>Aeneid</i> was written under his auspices
Aurora	The goddess of dawn
Ausonia	Another name for Italy; the allies of Turnus and Latinus are sometimes called Ausonians
Aventine	One of the seven hills of Rome
Avernus	A lake in Italy that was said to be located near an entrance to Hades; the Cumaean Sybil had her cave there
Bacchus	The god of wine and ecstatic celebration; his followers were wild women known as Bacchantes
Baiae	A Roman resort town on the Bay of Naples
Bellona	A goddess of warfare

Berecynthian mother	Another name for Cybele
Brutus	The legendary Roman who overthrew the monarchy, which under Tarquin the Proud had become a tyranny, and established the Republic
Cacus	Vulcan's son, a ravaging giant in the city of Pallanteum, who was killed by Hercules
Camilla	A woman warrior and leader of the Volscians; ally of Turnus
Capitol	The summit of the Capitoline Hill in Rome, with an important temple of Jupiter
Carthage	Dido's city on the coast of North Africa
Cassandra	A Trojan princess who was given the gift of prophecy but also the curse that no one would believe her predictions; she was murdered along with Agamemnon
Castor	Twin brother of Pollux, with whom he spent alternate days in the upper and lower worlds; they were brothers of Helen of Troy
Catiline	A first-century B.C. Roman politician who conspired to overthrow the state but was defeated
Cato	A quintessentially stern Roman statesman and an opponent of the power of Carthage
Centaur	Creatures that were half-human, half-horse
Cerberus	A monstrous three-headed dog that guarded the entrance to Hades
Ceres	The goddess of agriculture and mother of Proserpina, wife of Pluto
Charon	The ferryman who transported dead souls across the river Styx in Hades
Charybdis	A whirlpool in the straits of Messina located across from the cave of the monster Scylla
Circe	A sorceress who enchanted men, turning them into animals; she plays a prominent role in the <i>Odyssey</i>
Cloelia	A young hostage during the Etruscan siege of Rome in the late sixth century B.C., she escaped by dodging arrows and swimming the Tiber
Cocles	A Roman soldier who kept the army of Lars Porsena from Rome in the late sixth century B.C. by holding off the enemy until the bridge on which he was standing could be destroyed behind him
Cocytus	A river in Hades

Corinth	An important Greek city on the isthmus between mainland Greece and the Peloponnesus
Crete	A large Aegean island; it was the home of King Minos and his wife, Pasiphae, who mated with a bull and gave birth to the monstrous Minotaur
Creusa	A Trojan princess and the first wife of Aeneas; the mother of Iulus
Cumae	A colony near Naples and the home of the Sibyl, a priestess and prophetess of Apollo
Cumaean Sibyl	Prophetess and keeper of the entrance to Hades at Cumae, and in Book 6 Aeneas' guide in the underworld
Cupid	"Desire," the god of erotic love and son of Venus
Curetes	The indigenous people of Crete, who cared for the infant Jupiter
Cybele	A name for the Great Mother goddess of Asia Minor; the "Berecynthian mother" of Book 9
Cyclades	A group of Aegean islands
Cyclopes	One-eyed giants of Sicily; one of them, Polyphemus, was tricked and blinded by Ulysses
Cyprus	An Aegean island, important cult center for Venus
Cythera	An Aegean island in the waters off which Venus was born
Daedalus	"The Cunning One," the builder of the labyrinth on Crete in which the Minotaur was hidden; he invented wings to enable him to escape to Italy after he was imprisoned by King Minos
Danae	An Argive princess who was set adrift in a chest by her father after becoming pregnant by Jupiter; the mother of Perseus
Dardanus	The founder of Troy; Trojans are sometimes called Dardanians
Deiphobe	Another name for the Sibyl of Cumae
Deiphobus	A Trojan prince, the son of Priam and Hecuba, who married Helen after the death of his brother Paris
Delos	The Aegean island where Apollo and Diana were born and a chief site of their cult
Diana	The goddess of hunting, the moon, and childbirth; sister of Apollo; she was often joined with Hecate, a goddess of the underworld, and Selene, goddess of the moon, as a tripartite deity

Dido	Also called Elissa; the ruler of Carthage, which she founded after fleeing Tyre, where her husband had been murdered; the tragic lover of Aeneas who killed herself when he deserted her
Diomedes	A Greek hero at Troy who afterward founded the town of Arpi in Italy
Dis	Another name for Hades
Dodona	A famous oracular shrine of Jupiter
Egeria	A nymph who taught the Roman king Numa religious practices
Elissa	Another name for Dido
Elysium	The place in the underworld reserved for those who had led virtuous lives
Erebus	The god of darkness, and another name for the underworld
Eryx	1) A mountain in Sicily; 2) A Sicilian hero, son of Venus and Neptune
Etna	A volcano in Sicily and the legendary workshop of Vulcan and the Cyclopes
Etruria	A nation in Italy; the Etruscans, also called Tuscans, were allies of Aeneas against Turnus and Latinus
Euryalus	The friend of Nisus and his partner on an ill-fated Trojan mission during the war in Italy
Evander	The king of Pallanteum in Italy and the most important ally of Aeneas
Fabii	An important family of Roman statesmen over several centuries
Fates	The three goddesses who spun and cut the threads of mortal lives
Faunus	A king of ancient Italy, later a forest deity
Furies	Demons of female anger, especially active in avenging the murder of blood relatives
Ganymede	A Trojan prince who was raped by Jupiter but then given the honor of being cupbearer to the gods
Gaul	The region that is now France; the Gauls attacked Rome in the fourth century B.C. and were repulsed; the region became part of the Roman Empire in the first century B.C.
Geryon	A three-bodied giant killed by Hercules
Gorgon	A monster in the shape of a woman with hair of snakes;

	she had the power to turn onlookers to stone and was killed by Perseus; her head was then placed on Minerva's aegis
Gracchi	The brothers Tiberius and Gaius, who attempted to reform the Roman state in the late second century B.C.
Hades	Also called Dis, Orcus, and Pluto; the god of the underworld and husband of Proserpina; the terms can also refer to the underworld itself
Harpies	"Snatchers," the daughters of the sea nymph Electra and the sea god Thaumias; monstrous birds with the features of girls
Hecate	A goddess of the underworld and of witchcraft; she is often linked with Diana and Selene
Hector	A prince of Troy and its chief defender until he was killed by Achilles
Hecuba	The wife of Priam and queen of Troy
Helen	The most beautiful woman in the world and the wife of Menelaus of Sparta; her abduction by Paris at the instigation of Venus caused the Trojan War
Helenus	A Trojan prince who married the widowed Andromache and founded Little Troy in Epirus, a region that today comprises northwestern Greece and southern Albania
Helicon	A mountain in central Greece, home to the Muses
Hercules	A hero and son of Jupiter who achieved divinity after completing twelve superhuman labors
Hermione	The daughter of Helen and Menelaus
Hesperia	"The West," or Italy
Hippolytus	Also called Virbius, the name of his son as well; the son of Theseus who was killed through a plot of his stepmother, Phaedra, after he refused her advances
Hydra	A many-headed monster killed by Hercules
Icarus	The son of Daedalus, who fell to his death when his pair of wings that Daedalus invented for their escape from Crete melted in the heat of the sun
Ilia	The mother of Romulus and Remus by Mars
Ilium	Another name for Troy
Io	A love interest of Jupiter, who changed her into a cow to conceal her from Juno's jealousy
Iris	The goddess of the rainbow and a divine messenger

Iulus	Also called Ascanius, the son of Aeneas and Creusa and the founder of the Julian line that included Julius Caesar
Janus	A god with two faces who presides over entryways and beginnings and endings in general
Jove	Another name for Jupiter
Julius Caesar	Brilliant Roman general, murdered in 44 B.C. for his pretensions to autocracy; Octavian, also called Augustus, was his adoptive heir
Juno	The queen of the gods, daughter of Saturn, and wife and sister of Jupiter
Jupiter	Also called Jove, Greek name Zeus; the son of Saturn, he became ruler of the gods after he defeated his father and the other Titans
Juturna	The sister of Turnus, deified after her rape by Jupiter
Laocoön	A Trojan priest of Neptune
Laomedon	A king of Troy who brought on Neptune's curse by refusing to pay him after he built the walls of the city
Latinus	The king of Latium, husband of Amata and father of Lavinia, who refuses to give his daughter in marriage to Aeneas and allies himself with Turnus
Latium	Latinus' kingdom in Italy
Latona	A nymph, the mother of Apollo and Diana by Jupiter
Lausus	The son of Mezentius
Lavinia	A princess of Latium who is betrothed to Turnus but destined for marriage with Aeneas; her father's refusal to give her to Aeneas starts the war between the Italians and Trojans
Leda	The mother of Helen of Troy, who was raped by Jupiter in the form of a swan
Lethe	The river in Hades that the dead must cross, which makes them forget their previous lives
Libya	A region on the coast of North Africa
Lupercal	The grotto where the she-wolf nursed the twins Romulus and Remus, who had been exposed to die
Luperci	Priests who conducted the fertility ritual, the Lupercalia
Manlius	A Roman general who defended the Capitol from an attack by the Gauls in the fourth century B.C.
Marcellus	1) a Roman general during the Second Punic War (218–201 B.C.); 2) Augustus' nephew, who died young

Mars	The god of war
Megaera	One of the three Furies
Memnon	An Ethiopian king and ally of Priam at Troy
Menelaus	The king of Sparta and cuckolded husband of Helen of Troy
Mercury	The messenger god and conductor of souls to the underworld
Messapus	A son of Neptune and ally of Turnus
Metabus	The expelled king of Privernum and father of Camilla
Mettus	A legendary early ally of Rome from Alba Longa who was torn to pieces by horses for hanging back from a crucial battle
Mezentius	The deposed king of Etruscan Caere and an ally of Turnus
Minerva	Also called Pallas; in Greek, Athena; the goddess of wisdom, warfare, and women's handicrafts
Minos	A king of Crete who built the labyrinth and later became a judge of souls of the dead in Hades
Mnestheus	A lieutenant of Aeneas'
Mummius	The Roman general who captured Corinth in 146 B.C.
Musaeus	A legendary singer
Mycenae	The kingdom in the Peloponnesus ruled by Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks at Troy
Myrmidons	Achilles' Thessalian warriors at Troy
Neoptolemus	Also called Pyrrhus; a Greek hero at Troy, the son of Achilles, who married Hermione, the daughter of Helen and Menelaus
Neptune	The god of the sea, who built the walls of Troy but then turned against the city
Nisus	The friend of Euryalus and his partner on an ill-fated Trojan mission during the war in Italy
Numitor	A king of Alba Longa and the father of Ilia
Olympus	The home of the gods, at the top of Mount Olympus on the border between Macedonia and Thessaly
Orcus	Another name for Hades
Orestes	A Greek prince who killed his mother, Clytemnestra, in revenge for her murder of his father, Agamemnon, and was driven insane by the Furies
Orion	The Hunter constellation; its setting was thought to predict storms

Orpheus	A musician who entered Hades in an attempt to retrieve his dead wife, Eurydice
Palatine	One of the seven hills of Rome
Palinurus	Aeneas' helmsman
Pallas	1) Evander's son; 2) Evander's ancestor; 3) another name for Minerva
Pan	Half-man, half-goat god of the wilderness and herding
Paris	The Trojan prince who caused the Trojan War by his adulterous union with Helen
Pasiphae	A queen of Crete, cursed with love for a bull, who became the mother of the Minotaur by it
Paulus	The Roman general who defeated King Perseus of Macedonia in 168 B.C.
Peleus	The father of Achilles
Pentheus	A king of Thebes, cursed and led to his death by Bacchus for barring Bacchic rites from his city
Phaedra	A queen of Athens and the wife of Theseus who was cursed by Venus with an insane love for her stepson, Hippolytus
Phaeton	The child of the Sun, who attempted to drive his father's chariot and was killed when he could not control the horses
Phlegethon	A river of lava in Hades
Phoebus	"Shining," another name for Apollo
Phrygia	A region in Asia Minor that was subject to Troy; Trojans are sometimes referred to as Phrygians
Pirithous	A friend of Theseus who was condemned to perpetual torture in Tartarus for attempting to kidnap Proserpina, queen of the underworld
Pluto	Another name for Hades
Pollux	The twin brother of Castor, with whom he spent alternate days in the upper and lower worlds
Polyphemus	The Cyclops blinded by Ulysses
Porsenna	A legendary Etruscan king and supporter of the exiled Tarquin
Praeneste	A city in Latium
Priam	The king of Troy at the time of the Trojan War; husband of Hecuba and father of fifty sons, including Hector and Paris
Proserpina	Also called Persephone; the queen of Hades and wife

	of Pluto, who spent the spring and summer with her mother, Ceres, in the upper world
Pygmalion	The brother of Dido and the murderer of her husband Sychaeus
Pyrrhus	Another name for Neoptolemus
Quirinus	A native Italian god and another name for Romulus
Remus	The twin brother of Romulus, murdered by him
Rhoeteum	A promontory near Troy; “Rhoeteian” can be used for Trojans
Romulus	Also called Quirinus; a descendant of Aeneas, the son of Mars and twin brother of Remus, and the founder of Rome
Rutulians	Turnus’ tribe in Italy, living near where Rome was to be
Samos	An Aegean island with an important temple of Juno
Sarpedon	A son of Jupiter and an ally of Troy during the Greek siege
Saturn	A Titan, the father of Jupiter and Juno, and the original ruler of Italy; he was driven there after being deposed from kingship of the gods by Jupiter
Scipios	A family of Roman statesmen and generals important in the third and second centuries B.C.
Scylla	A sea monster lurking in the Straits of Messina across from the whirlpool Charybdis
Serestus	A lieutenant of Aeneas’
Sergestus	A lieutenant of Aeneas’
Sibyl	A prophetess; in the <i>Aeneid</i> the keeper of the entrance to Hades at Cumae, and Aeneas’ guide in the underworld
Simois	A river near Troy
Sparta	A city in the Greek Peloponnesus, home to Helen and Menelaus
Styx	A river in Hades; oaths sworn by the gods on Styx were binding
Sychaeus	The husband of Dido in Tyre, murdered by her brother Pygmalion
Syrtes	Sandbanks off the northern coast of Africa
Tarchon	An Etruscan ally of Aeneas
Tarpeia’s Rock	Also called the Tarpeian Rock; the cliff on the Capitoline Hill from which criminals were flung; named after the legendary traitor Tarpeia

Tarquin	The name of the last two legendary kings of Rome
Tartarus	A gulf in the underworld, and also a term for the underworld in general
Tatius	A king of the Sabines at the time of Romulus
Teucer	The original ancestor of the Trojan royal house, so that Trojans are often referred to as Teucrians; also a Greek warrior who fought at Troy and was later an exile from his kingdom, Salamis
Theseus	The killer of the Minotaur (with the help of Ariadne) and later a king of Athens; he joined his friend Pirithous in the attempted kidnapping of Proserpina
Thetis	A sea nymph and the mother of Achilles
Tibur	A city in Latium
Tisiphone	One of the Furies
Tithonus	The husband of Dawn (the goddess Aurora)
Torquatus	A renowned Roman general of the fourth century B.C. who had his own son executed for fighting against orders
Triton	A sea god
Troy	Also called Ilium; the city of Aeneas in Asia Minor, destroyed by the Greeks after the ten-year Trojan War
Turnus	A prince of the Rutulians in Italy, who is betrothed to Lavinia and wages war to prevent the Trojans from settling and Aeneas from marrying her
Tuscans	Another name for Etruscans
Tyre	The Phoenician island city from which Dido fled to found Carthage
Ulysses	The king of Ithaca and an important Greek hero at Troy
Venus	The goddess of love and the mother of Aeneas by Anchises
Vesta	The goddess of the hearth
Virbius	The new name of Hippolytus in Italy; also the name of this hero's son
Vulcan	The god of fire and metalworking and the husband of Venus
Xanthus	A river at Troy