

Trial of Aeneas Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

1. **Carrying Anchises:** Free Will - though fate destined Rome's founding, Aeneas personally chose to risk his life for his father.
2. **Falling in love with Dido:** Fate - Venus and Cupid influenced Dido's love, and Aeneas was caught in the gods' plan.
3. **Leaving Carthage:** Fate - Mercury reminded him of his destiny, and Aeneas obeyed, though torn by emotion.
4. **Journey to the Underworld:** Free Will - Aeneas actively chose to go, seeking Anchises's wisdom and preparing himself for Rome's future.
5. **Killing Turnus:** Free Will - Though fate demanded victory, the killing was personal; seeing Pallas's belt triggered a human choice for vengeance.

Closing Argument Example - Destiny's Lawyer:

"Every step of Aeneas's journey proves that he is an instrument of fate. Juno's storms, Venus's interventions, and Jupiter's decrees shape his path. Even when he loves, it is because Cupid kindled the flame. When he leaves Dido, it is because Mercury orders him onward. Aeneas may appear to choose, but in truth, the gods wrote every line of his story."