

Aeneid Structure

How long is the *Iliad*? The *Odyssey*?

How long is the *Aeneid*?

What are the divisions of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*?

How can you divide up the *Aeneid*?

Helen

Where does Helen appear?

What are the circumstances?

How does she survive?

How does that make you feel?

Palamedes

Where does Palamedes appear?

Who tells you about him?

How much can you trust the account?

“Cuncta equidem tibi, rex, fuerit quodcumque, fatebor
vera,” inquit; “neque me Argolica de gente negabo.

Hoc primum; nec, si miserum Fortuna Sinonem
finxit, vanum etiam mendacemque improba finget.

“Fando aliquod si forte tuas pervenit ad auris
Belidæ nomen Palamedis et incluta fama
gloria, **quem falsa sub prodicione Pelasgi
insontem infando indicio, quia bella vetabat,**
demisere neci, nunc cassum lumine **lugent:**
illi me comitem et consanguinitate propinquum
pauper in arma pater primis huc misit ab annis.

“Dum stabat regno incolumis regumque vigebat
conciliis, et nos aliquod nomenque decusque
gessimus. **Invidia** postquam **pellacis Ulixi**
(haud ignota loquor) superis concessit ab oris,
adflictus vitam in tenebris luctuque trahebam
et casum insontis mecum indignabar amici.

“Nec tacui demens et me, fors si qua tulisset,
si patrios umquam remeassem victor ad Argos,
promisi ultorem et verbis odia aspera movi.
Hinc mihi prima mali labes, hinc semper Ulixes
criminibus terrere novis, hinc spargere voces
in vulgum ambiguas et quærere conscius arma.

“Nec requievit enim, donec Calchante ministro—
sed quid ego hæc autem nequiquam ingrata revolve,
quidue moror? Si omnis uno ordine habetis Achivos,
idque audire sat est, jamdudum sumite poenas:
hoc Ithacus velit et magno mercentur Atridæ.”

Laocoön



LAOCOON: as Euphorion says, after the arrival of the Greeks the priest of Neptune was stoned to death because he did not by his sacrifices prevent their arrival. Afterwards when the Greeks went, as they wanted to sacrifice to Neptune, Laocoon, the priest of Thymbraean Apollo, was taken by lot, as regularly happens when there is no regular priest. He had committed an abomination in front of the image of Apollo by coming together with his wife, and for this reason dragons were sent against him and he was killed with his sons. History has this, but the poet interprets it towards the exculpation of the Trojans, who not knowing this were deceived... that the serpents went to the citadel, i.e. to the temple of Minerva, either (because) she herself was hostile to the Trojans, or it was a sign that the State was about to perish. Indeed Bacchylides talks about Laocoon and his wife or about dragons coming from the Calydnæ islands and changing into human beings...these dragons Lysimachus calls curifis and periboea (*sic*: possibly *Coryphen et Periboeam*, or, *v. inf.*, *Porcen ophin et Chariboeam*?): the sons of Laocoon Thessandrus calls Ethron and Melanthus.

Laocoon

Why must he die?

Why do the Trojans think the snakes came?

Polydorus

What's the deal with Polydorus?

Does this match his tale in *Trojan Women*?

Helenus and Andromache

Who are they? How did they get to Buthrotum?

What are they doing there?

What happened to our young hero Neoptolemus?

Odysseus (Ulixes/Ulysses)

Is he a hero or a villain?

Book 2: “What Myrmidon, or Dolopian, or warrior of fierce Ulysses, could keep from tears in telling such a story?” What story?

Æneas

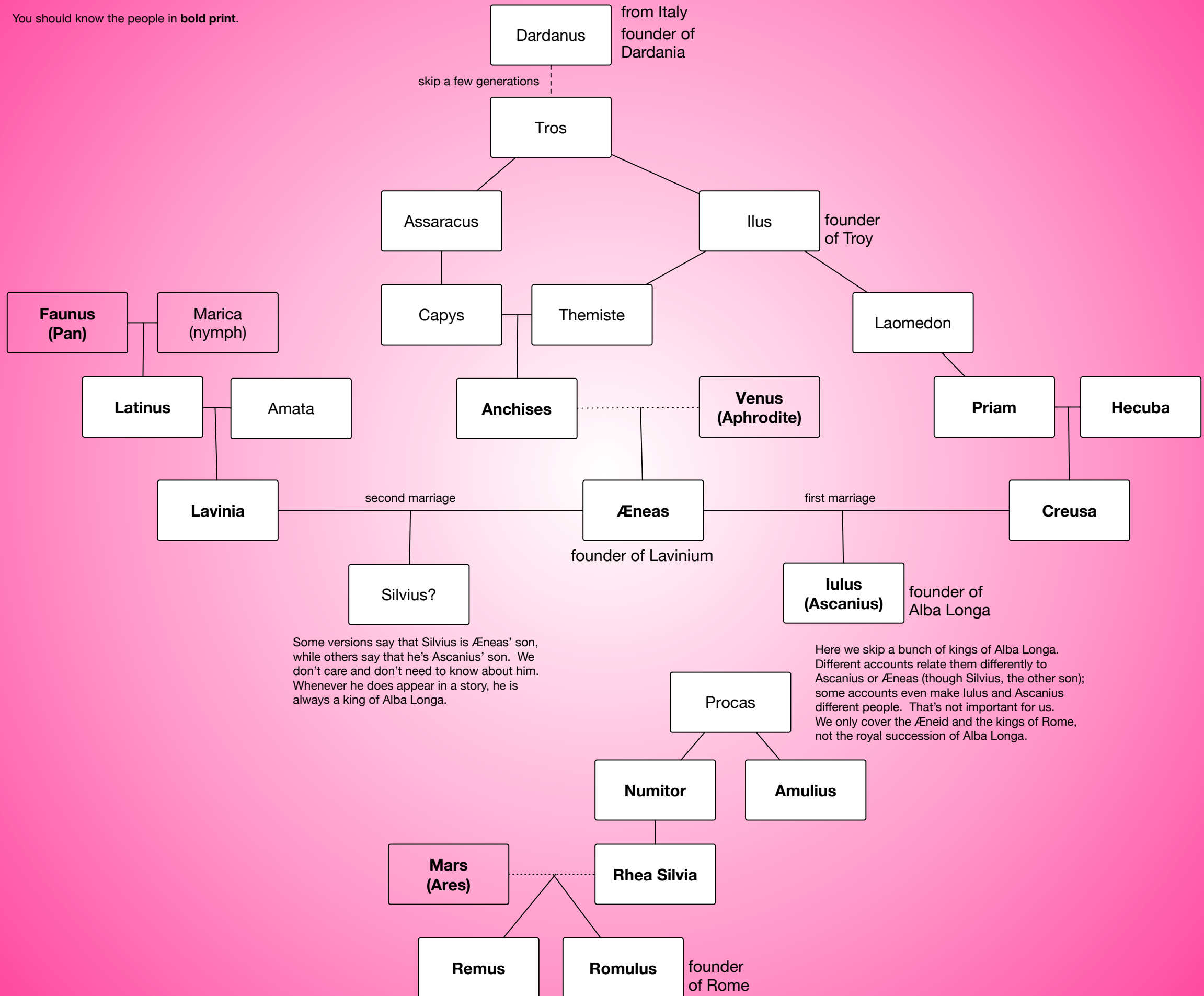
Who is Æneas exactly? What ties him to the house of Priam? Who is his mother?

How is he different from Odysseus?

How many men does he lose, and how many does he bring safely to Italy?

Æneas' Family

You should know the people in **bold print**.



Æneas and Dido

Were they married?

Why do they fall in love?

Was Æneas wrong to leave her?

Does she like Ascanius just a bit too much?

Was her ultimate decision the right one?

Is she tragic? What does she do wrong?



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Andrea Frisch

University of Maryland

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Neil W. Bernstein

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