

LANGUAGE FAIR 2024  
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
POETRY RECITATION  
Level 2

*The dread ferryman of the Underworld, Charon, appears.*

Portitor hās horrendus aquās et flūmina servat  
terribilī squālōre Charōn, cui plūrima mentō  
cānitiēs inculta iacet; stant lūmina flammā,  
sordidus ex umerīs nōdō dēpendet amictus.

*(Vergil, Aeneid 6.298–301)*

Translation:

The dreadful Ferryman safeguards these waters  
and river with his frightful foulness — Charon,  
whose most abundant gray hair hangs loose,  
uncombed, from his chin; his lights remain fixed  
— in flame; a filthy cloak hangs down from a  
knot on his shoulders.