

Start here.

Q5).

Heroic tales were considered to be extremely popular at the time when Virgil composed the "Aeneid." His portrayal of certain characters has therefore adopted such forms as heroic qualities are evident throughout. Mezentius, the character being referred to in the given extract, is portrayed with a variety of heroic qualities which strengthen his character. Virgil is able to do such through his amazing ability to write and in conjunction with ~~the~~ incredible imagery and figurative language, the character of Mezentius is portrayed.

The given extract is taken from the end of life for Mezentius. This the passage possesses a much more sombre mood.

~~How~~ Despite this, the heroic qualities of Mezentius still shine through. Mezentius' speed in the middle of the extract, lines 900-906, provides the portrayal of Mezentius' heroic nature.

He appears to be unafraid of death a

character trait which only the most heroic man possessed. It is the line "hostis aware, quid increpitas mortisque moraris?" that shows this. Furthermore, having accepted his death at the hands of the Gods, his heroic status is explained.

Continuing on in the speech, Mezentius ~~is~~ demands his own death informing and reminding Aeneas that "nullum in caelo nefas,". Mezentius is also a man in great distress as his son has been killed and he blames himself for it. Taking responsibility for other's deaths was also another important character trait which heroes possessed.

Virgil ~~is~~ uses the repetition of the word "nec" to reinforce Mezentius' words in that no one should care for the battle field believing death is a wicked thing and that slaughter should not be present. It through such words of Mezentius that again his heroic status is explained.

Finally, the last request of the dying man in Mezentius reflects to another heroic

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quality that he is portrayed to possess.  
Mercurius' final words before his inevitable death being, "hunc, oro, defende furorom et ne carcerem nobis concede sepulcro."  
show him demanding to be ~~left to~~ buried in the same tomb as his son as his desire ~~to be buried with his son~~ to be reunited with this lost family member becomes overwhelming.

Virgil's portrayal of Mercurius, particularly in the given extract, ~~is~~ provides the ~~character~~ character with a range of heroic qualities ~~eventually~~ eventuating in an extremely heroic end for this courageous man.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.