

Metamorphoses

Book I:

- Deucalion (son of Prometheus and Clymene) and Pyrrha (daughter of Epimetheus and Pandora) survived the flood
- The one who told them how to recreate humanity was Themis.
- Daphne was the daughter of Peneus
- Io is daughter of Inachus and mother of Epaphus by Zeus
- Phaethon was son of Clymene and Sun. He was teased by Epaphus.

Book II:

- Sun's horses are named Aethon, Eous, Pyrois, and Phlegon.
- His sisters were called the Heliades. They grieved for 4 months and were turned into poplar trees.
- Callisto lived in Arcadia, Zeus' birthplace. She bore a son by Zeus named Arcas. Juno turned her into a bear. Once, when Arcas was about to kill her, Zeus turned them both into Ursa Major and Minor.
- Erichthonius was born by Minerva and Vulcan. He was given in a box to the daughters of Cecrops, Pandrosos, Herse, and Aglauros.
- The daughter of Chiron, Ocyrhoe, could see the future. She told her father his exact fate, and for this she was turned into a horse.
- When Mercury stole Apollo's cattle, Mercury tricked a man named Battus into betraying Mercury, and thus Mercury turned him into a rock.
- Mercury wanted to marry Herse. Auglaros forced Mercury to pay her. Minerva saw this, and, remembering that Aglauros was the one who opened Erichthonius' box, she sent Envy upon her, and she turned into a white statue.
- Europa was daughter of Agenor and Telephassa in the land of Sidon. Zeus took her away to Crete.

Book III:

- Cadmus, brother of Europa, was tasked by Agenor to find her.
- Apollo told Cadmus to found a city and name it Boetia.
- Cadmus did this, killed a serpent sacred to Mars, sewed its teeth in the ground (per Minerva's directions), and these became the 5 Spartoi.
- The 5 Spartoi are Echion, Udeus, Chthonius, Hyperenor, and Pelorus.
- The city was renamed Thebes
- Cadmus' wife was named Harmonia, daughter of Mars and Venus.
- Actaeon, son of Aristaeus and Autonoe, was grandson of Cadmus
- Jupiter raped another daughter of Cadmus, Semele, and Juno appeared to her in the form of Beroe, her maid. Juno tricked Semele into asking Jupiter to make love with her as he would with Juno. Semele could not survive this, and the unborn baby was stripped from her womb and sewn into Jupiter's leg. After it was born again from there, Ino, sister of Semele and also daughter of Cadmus, cared for the child, named Bacchus (Dionysus).
- Tiresias was the son of Everes and the nymph Chariclo. He became a woman for 7 years.

- Narcissus was the son of the river god Cephissus and the nymph Liriope.
- Echo was so punished because she distracted Juno by incessantly talking while Jupiter was sleeping with various nymphs.
- Pentheus was the son of Echion and Agave. He was ripped apart by his mother and aunts during their Bacchic rage. He scorned Bacchus as a god.

Book IV:

- Daughters of Minyas did not participate in Bacchic rituals.
 - Arsippe told the story of Pyramus and Thisbe
 - Leuconoe (Leucippe) told the story of the sun falling in love. After being tipped off by the Sun, Vulcan catches his wife, Venus, having an affair with Mars. Furious at the Sun for gossiping to Vulcan, Venus makes him fall in love with Leucothoe. Leucothoe and the Sun have an affair. The Sun's wife, Clytie, finds out and tells Leucothoe's father what is going on. Leucothoe is buried alive and dies. The Sun turns her into frankincense, a plant.
 - Alcithoe told the story of Salmacis and Hermaphroditus: Hermes and Aphrodite had a son named Hermaphroditus. One day, he wandered over to a spring containing the nymph Salmacis. She instantly fell in love with him, and attacked him when he got into the spring. Both of their bodies merged into one. Hermaphroditus asked his parents to bewitch the water of the spring to turn anyone who enters into a half man half woman.
 - These were transformed into bats.
- Ino, the only of Cadmus' daughters not yet stricken by grief, was very proud of her husband, Athamas, her child, Melicertes, and her foster child, Bacchus. Juno couldn't handle this. She went to the underworld and asked Tisiphone, one of the Furies, to make Ino and Athamas mad. In his madness, Athamas killed his son Learchus. Venus, pitying her granddaughter and her son, asked Neptune to make her and Melicertes gods. Melicertes became Palaemon and Ino became Leucothea.
- After this he was exiled from Boetia and founded Athamantia.
- He married a woman named Themisto, daughter of Hypseus. She tried to kill his children by Ino, but accidentally killed her own children instead.
- After killing Medusa, Perseus arrived at the place of Atlas and requested lodging. Atlas had heard from Themis to avoid any boasting to be a son of Jupiter, which Perseus was doing. He told Perseus to leave. In anger, Perseus pointed Medusa's head at him, and Atlas became a mountain. He then married Andromeda.

Book V:

- Andromeda was the daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia.
- Cepheus' brother, Phineus, was expected to marry Andromeda.
- The sea monster that Poseidon sent to attack Aethiopia after Cassiopeia boasted that Andromeda was more beautiful than the Nereids was Cetus.
- After Perseus changed Phineus and his men into stone, he returned to Argos, finding that Acrisius' brother, Proetus, had usurped the throne. Perseus turned him into stone as well.

- The one to save Perseus and Danae was Dictys. Polydectes, brother of Dictys and ruler of the island of Seriphos, fell in love with Danae. On the pretense that he was planning to marry Hippodamia, he required that all men in the kingdom provide him with a horse. Perseus could not provide one, so Polydectes told him to bring the head of a gorgon. In Perseus' absence, Polydectes made unpleasant advances upon Danae. Perseus was so angry on his return that he turned Polydectes into stone, and gave the kingdom to Dictys.
- Minerva visits the Muses on Mt. Helicon and the spring Hippocrene that Pegasus brought forth with its hoof.
- A muse began telling Minerva a story about a man named Pyreneus, a wild Thracian soldier, who invited the Muses into his home to shield them from the rain. When they all entered, he locked the door in order to "do them violence," but the Muses took flight. He jumped off the roof to follow, and crushed his head on the ground and died.
- In mid conversation, 9 magpies interrupted. The muse explained that these 9 birds were once human sisters, daughters of Pierus, who challenged the Muses to a singing contest. The Pierides chose one sister randomly and she sang of the war between the gods and the titans. The Muses chose Calliope, Muse of Epic Poetry, and she sang of the Rape of Proserpina.
- Venus was worried that Proserpina would follow in the footsteps of Minerva and Diana and be a virgin, so she convinced Cupid to shoot an arrow into Pluto and have him fall in love with Proserpina. As Proserpina picks violets in a grove, Dis rapes her and then takes her to his underworld kingdom. Cyane, a nymph of Sicily, sees the crime, but all she can do is weep. Her tears make her part of the spring she inhabited. Ceres, Proserpina's mother, searches everywhere for her daughter. When she comes to Cyane's spring, Cyane manages to convey what happened. Arethusa, a sacred spring, explains to Ceres that Dis, not the earth, is to blame. After grieving, Ceres speaks to Jupiter. Initially, Jupiter says that Dis raped Proserpina out of love, and that Proserpina married well. The brother of Jupiter is no insignificant son-in-law. Jupiter says that if Ceres still wants Proserpina back, she may have her, as long as Proserpina has not eaten anything from the underworld. Proserpina has eaten something, so Jupiter offers a compromise. Proserpina will divide her time equally between Dis and Ceres.
- Arethusa tells Ceres she was transformed from a nymph into a sacred spring to escape Alpheus, a river god. Ceres takes flight in her serpent-driven chariot and gives Triptolemus seeds that cause great fruitfulness. Triptolemus travels to the kingdom of Scythia bearing this gift. The king of the land, Lyncus, is jealous and seeks to kill Triptolemus and steal his seeds. Ceres intervenes and turns Lyncus into a lynx.
- The song was over. The Muses were declared the winners, but the losers did not accept this. The Muses turned them into magpies.

Book VI:

- Arachne was of Lydia, daughter of Idmon of Colophon. After her challenge to Minerva, Minerva appeared to her as an old woman and tried to convince her to beg forgiveness from Minerva. When she refused, Minerva through aside her disguise and the contest began. Minerva fashions a portrait that glorifies the gods in general and herself in

particular. Her tapestry depicts the Olympian gods, her victory over Neptune, and four scenes of the gods conquering humans and turning them into animals. Arachne creates a flawless portrait of gods raping and deceiving humans. Minerva is so enraged by Arachne's skill that she begins to beat her. Unable to endure such treatment, Arachne hangs herself, and Minerva transforms her into a spider.

- Amphion and Zethus were twin sons of Zeus and Antiope. They are attributed to an alternate founding myth of Thebes, when Amphion, who had been taught the lyre by Hermes, was able to play the city walls into place. Zethus married Thebe, and named the city after her, and Amphion married Niobe, daughter of Tantalus, the Lydian King, and Dione.
- Niobe had heard of Arachne's fate, but was not afraid of the gods. Manto, daughter of Tiresias, called the Lydian woman to worship Latona (Leto), the daughter of the Titans Coeus and Phoebe, but Niobe began insulting Leto for having few children. Leto convinced Apollo and Diana to go and kill all of Niobe's children (7 sons and 7 daughters). After the 7 sons were killed, Amphion killed himself. Then the 7 daughters were killed. Niobe turned into a weeping stone.
- To test the gods' omniscience, Tantalus carved up his son Pelops and served him as a sacrifice to the gods. The gods knew about this, and thus did not eat, but Ceres, distracted by Proserpina's fate, ate his shoulder. The gods put Pelops back together and put in an ivory block for his shoulder.
- The one who liberated Athens from Labdacus of Thebes was Tereus of Thrace, and to thank him, the King of Athens, Pandion, gave him his daughter, Procne, in marriage. The wedding was ill-fated. Juno, Hymen, and the Graces do not attend the wedding. 5 years later, Procne asks Tereus if he might bring her sister, Philomela, to Thrace so that she might see her. Tereus sets sail for Athens, and told King Pandion Procne's wish. As he was doing this, Philomela walks out, and Tereus falls instantly in love with her. He continues his request, with love making him all the more eloquent. The request is granted and Tereus brings her back to a remote shaft in Thrace, and rapes her frequently. He cuts off her tongue as well. She weaves Tereus' deeds on wool, and he returns to Procne and tells her that Philomela had died on the journey home. Philomela entrusted a woman to take it to Procne, who vowed revenge.
- She killed her only son, whose name was Itys, and served him to Tereus at the banquet. She told him what she had done, and Philomela throws the head of Itys at him. He chases them and they turn into birds, as does he.

Book VII:

- Jason (originally named Diomedes) appears before King Aeetes of Colchis to demand the Golden Fleece. Aeetes will give it to him only if he completes certain feats. Medea, who knows her father and the dangers that await Jason, is torn. She knows she should be loyal to her father, but she cannot deny the passion she feels for Jason. Jason promises to marry her in exchange for her help, and Medea uses her knowledge of magic to aid him. Jason succeeds and obtains the Golden Fleece and Medea, and returns home.

- Jason then asks Medea to transfer some of his life force to his father, Aeson. Medea says that this is forbidden, but she can just use magic to return Aeson to youthfulness. This she does.
- The one who had usurped the throne of Iolcus from his brother Aeson and sent Jason after the Golden Fleece to get him out of the way was Pelias. Medea went for revenge. She pretended to have been quarreling with Jason, and thus Pelias let her stay with him. Medea offers to restore Pelias to youth, and demonstrates her powers on an old sheep. Pelias agrees. She untruthfully tells Pelias' daughters that they must cut their father to remove him of old blood. The daughters are unwilling to do so, and so they cut blindly and rashly, and accidentally kill him. The daughters then flee to Arcadia.
- Jason and Medea fled to Corinth. There, Jason fell in love with Glauce, the daughter of Creon, the king. Medea sent Glauce a poisoned vest, killing both her and the king when he went to save her. Medea then fled to Thebes, where she healed Heracles of his murder of Iphitus. She was driven out of Thebes by the citizens, and she fled to Athens, where she married the King, Aegeus. She attempts to murder Theseus, the king's son, but fails, and flees again.
- Minos, King of Crete, son of Zeus and Europa, was threatening war with Athens. This was because his son by Pasiphae, Androgeos, died in Athens. Sources differ on how this occurred, but Minos blamed Aegeus in every interpretation.
- For help, Minos went to Aeacus of Aegina, but the latter explained that they had extremely powerful ties to Athens.
- Aeacus explains to Cephalus, envoy from Athens, that a great plague befell Aegina, brought upon by Juno, because Aegina was a wife of Zeus and mother of Aeacus. This plague was so powerful that it wiped out the citizens of Aegina. Aeacus beseeched Zeus to rescue his kingdom if he truly held Aeacus to be his son. In a dream, Aeacus beheld an oak with so many ants, and simply wished that his city could have so many citizens. The next night, in a dream, the ants all became human. Telamon, Aeacus' son by Endeis and father of Ajax and Teucer, rushed in and told his father that the city had suddenly become repopulated. He went outside and indeed, the men he dreamt of were there. He called them Myrmidons, after the Greek myrmex meaning ant.
- It was then night and Aeacus went to sleep. Cephalus and Aeacus' son, Phocus, were sitting together, and Cephalus told him the story of his wife, Procris. He and Procris were happily married, but the goddess Aurora abducted him on a hunting expedition for herself. He continually talked about Procris, so she let him go, but told him that he would regret his decision. This made him fear his wife's fidelity. To test her, he donned a disguise and went to test her. For many attempts she held fast, but eventually she wavered. He revealed his true form and she fled to self exile out of shame. He apologized, saying that he too would yield under such pressure, and the two lived happily for years. One day, Cephalus called upon the breeze to refresh him. However, some unnamed person wrongly believed that he was calling to a nymph named Breeze. This person told Procris, who decided to spy on Cephalus during one of his hunting trips. Cephalus mistook her for an animal and slew her with his golden-tipped javelin.

Book VIII:

- Minos attacks the city of Alcahous, ruled by Nisus. His daughter, Scylla, fell in love with Minos. She scalps her father to give his power, contained in a lock of purple hair, to Minos, who is horrified by her betrayal. He decides to impose the fairest terms on the defeated city, and he leaves. Scylla angrily purses Minos's ship but is thwarted by her father, Nisus, who is now an osprey (sea hawk). Scylla turns into a bird.
- Perdix was nephew of Daedalus who exhibited such remarkable skill with craftsmanship that Daedalus became envious and chucked him off a cliff. Minerva changed Perdix into a bird. Daedalus is banished and he goes to Etna. Perdix invented the saw.
- After Theseus's victory over the Minotaur, his fame spreads, and the Calydonians appeal to him for help in slaughtering a boar that has terrorized their land. Many exalted heroes join the hunt for the boar, but the chase goes badly. Echion wounds a maple tree, Jason overshoots, Nestor has to pole-vault to escape death by pig, Telamon trips over a root, and Peleus accidentally kills his father in law Eurytion, for which murder he was purified by Acastus in Iolcus.
- At last a women warrior, Atalanta, daughter of Iasus, grazes the boar's back.
- Meleager, son of Althaea and Oeneus, deals the death blow, but he wants the honor of the hunt to go to Atalanta. This angers the men, especially the uncles of Meleager— Plexippus and Toxeus, sons of Thestius. After a fight, Meleager kills his two uncles. Althaea is outraged by the death of her brothers. She remembers an old prophecy that as long as a certain log is not consumed by fire, Meleager will live. After debating what to do, Althaea decides to throw the log into the fire. As the log burns, Meleager's life fades away.
- Oeneus was the first man to whom Dionysus gave a vine plant. He killed his brother, Toxeus, for jumping over the trench which had been dug around Calydon.
- A war took place between the Calydonians and the Curetes, during which all of Oeneus' sons fell. The sons of his brother, Agrius, deposed him, but Diomedes, his grandson, put him back on the throne, and killed all of Agrius' sons, except for Thersites. This is before the Trojan War.
- On his way to Athens, Theseus stays with Achelous. They men share several stories of metamorphoses. Achelous says that the islands in the distance used to be naiads. He transformed them as punishment for failing to invite him to a banquet. Pirithous, one of Theseus's men, is skeptical about the story. Lexes, an older man, tells a story about Jupiter and Mercury assuming human disguise. They knocked on a thousand doors, and everyone turned them away except Baucis and Philemon, who, despite their poverty, offered the disguised gods food and drink. When the wine failed to run out, they realized who their guests were. Jupiter and Mercury granted them their wish to be priests of Jupiter and to live and die together.
- Achelous tells a story about a man with no regard for the gods. He chopped down a sacred tree for no reason, persisting even when the tree groaned in pain. Ceres called on Hunger to strike him. A powerful urge to eat gripped Erysichthon.
- He sold his daughter, whose name was Mestra, into slavery to pay for more food and eventually consumed mouthfuls of his own flesh, killing himself.

Book IX:

- Achelous then tells Theseus about the time where he wrestled Hercules. Both he and Hercules were suitors of Deianira. At first, the two exchanged words, attempting to outdo the other. When this failed, the two wrestled, Hercules eventually gaining the upper hand. Achelous turned into a snake, and Hercules broke off his horn.
- Immediately after this, Heracles and Deianira were leaving, and came upon a very difficult river. Heracles could cross it, but his wife could not. Nessus, son of Ixion and a centaur, came up and told Heracles that he would help Deianira cross the river. Heracles went first, and upon looking back, saw Nessus raping and taking away Deianira. Heracles shot Nessus with an arrow soaked with Hydra's poison. He gives Deianira his shirt, soaked in the poison, which he told her would "rekindle love."
- Later, worried that Hercules no longer loves her, and instead loves Iole, Deianira gives him the cloak. He puts it on and dies a protracted, painful death. Jupiter, with the assent of the gods, deifies Hercules.
- Hercules' mother, Alcmena, and Iole, Alcmena's daughter-in-law, relate tales of sorrow. Alcmena says that Juno and Lucina, the goddess of childbearing, kept her in labor for seven days and nights until her servant girl, Galanthis, found a way to help her. Iole says her half-sister, Dryope, plucked a lotus plant to give to her baby. The plant, which was once a nymph, began to bleed. Dryope was slowly transformed into a tree as punishment. Before she had fully turned, she had enough time to tell her husband, Andraemon, to take care of their child, Amphissus, and to not pick flowers.
- Byblis, daughter of Miletus, is in love with her twin brother, Caunus. When she realizes this love is unnatural and socially unacceptable, she tries to rationalize it by thinking of gods who have sex with their sisters. Her brother rejects her overtures and flees. Byblis tries to find him, and when she fails her weeping turns her into a spring.
- Ligdus, an honest Cretan man, tells his wife, Telethusa, that if their infant is a girl she must be left outside to die. Telethusa cannot bear to do this, so she makes Ligdus believe that Iphis is a boy. When Iphis is thirteen, a marriage is arranged between her and a girl named Ianthe. The two girls fall in love. Telethusa prays to Isis for a miracle. Isis answers her prayer and, to the delight of Telethusa and Iphis, transforms Iphis into a young man.

Book X:

- Cyparissus, son of Telephus, was beloved by Apollo. His best friend was a tamed stag, whom he accidentally killed with a hunting javelin. He mourned so much that Apollo turned him into a cypress tree, a classical symbol of mourning.
- Apollo also loved Hyacinth. The two were engaging in a friendly discus competition, when Apollo accidentally hit Hyacinth in the face with a discus, killing him. From his blood, flowers arose.
- Pygmalion and Galatea have a daughter named Paphos, who in turn has a son named Cinyras.
- Cinyras has a daughter named Myrrha, who is courted by princes from all over the world. However, Myrrha is in love with her father. Although she is agonized over her feelings, Myrrha tricks her father into sleeping with her for several nights. Cinyras

discovers the deception and seeks to kill Myrrha. Now pregnant, Myrrha escapes and turns into a tree. Eventually she bears a beautiful son, Adonis.

- Cupid accidentally pricks his mother, Venus, with one of his arrows, and she falls in love with Adonis. She prefers him even to heaven. She tells a story of Atalanta, a speedy woman whom an oracle has advised to avoid marriage. Hippomenes wants to marry Atalanta. She challenges him to a race. If he wins, she will marry him. If he loses, he will die. Before the start of the race, Venus gives Hippomenes three golden apples with which to distract Atalanta during the race. Hippomenes defeats Atalanta but fails to thank Venus for her help, so she turns him and Atalanta into lions. After the story ends, Adonis goes hunting, and a boar gouges him to death. Venus mourns and turns Adonis into a flower.

Book XI:

- Thracian women attack Orpheus with stones. He protects himself for a time by charming the stones with his music, but the Bacchae's rage drowns out the music and they rip him apart. Orpheus joins Eurydice in the underworld, and Bacchus punishes the Bacchae by turning them into trees.
- A satyr and tutor and mentor of Bacchus, Silenus, was found by Phrygian king Midas' servants and brought to him. Midas treated him kindly, and allowed him to live in his palace for 5 days. In response for his kindness, Bacchus granted Midas one wish. He asks that everything he touches be turned into gold. He quickly realizes this is a curse, and Bacchus agrees to take it away.
- A music contest ensues between Pan and Apollo. Everyone believes that Apollo is the winner, except for Midas. Apollo gives him donkey ears and departs for Troy.
- A king of Troy, Laomedon, son of Ilus II, tricks Apollo and Poseidon into building the walls of Troy without properly paying them.
- They flood Troy and demand that Laomedon sacrifice his daughter, Hesione. Laomedon asks Hercules to save his daughter in return for horses. Hercules saves Hesione, but does not receive horses. He and his allies lay siege to Troy and kill everyone save Podarces, who gives Hercules a golden veil that Hesione had made (and thereafter was called Priam, from priamai, to buy). Hercules gives Hesione to Telamon, his comrade, by whom he became the father of Teucer, while with Glaucus (Periboea), he had Ajax.
- Telamon's brother, Peleus, falls in love with Thetis. She escapes his attempted rape by turning into a lioness. He prays incessantly to the gods, and Proteus tells him to tie her up to prevent her from changing form. He does this and succeeds in raping her.
- He is exiled for killing his half brother, Phocus.
- Peleus is warmly received in Ceyx's kingdom of Thessaly. Ceyx tells a sad tale of his brother, Daedalion. Daedalion's beautiful daughter, Chione, has over a thousand suitors by the age of fourteen. Apollo and Mercury both rape Chione, and she bears twins with extraordinary talents (Autolycus by Hermes and Philammon by Apollo). Chione considers herself greater than Diana. Diana kills her with an arrow. Daedalion goes mad and is transformed into a hawk.
- As Ceyx is telling this story, a servant rushes in and says a wild wolf is ravaging the cattle and people. Peleus says he must deal with this situation. Ceyx decides to visit the oracle

of Apollo for answers. Ceyx's wife, Alcyone (daughter of Aeolus and Enarete), tries to persuade him to stay home, but in vain. On the way to see Apollo, Ceyx dies in an enormous storm. As he dies, he bids the waves to bring his body home. Juno sends Sleep to tell Alcyone what has happened in a dream. The next morning, Alcyone sees Ceyx's body floating in the sea. She leaps into the water and turns into a bird. Ceyx, too, turns into a bird.

Book XII:

- The illegitimate son of Priam with the nymph Alexirhoe, daughter of the river Granicus, was Aesacus. He catches the sight of Hesperia and pursues her. A poisonous snake strikes her and she dies. Unable to bear living, he leaps off a cliff, but is turned into a bird by Tethys. He still attempts to dive, and so lives on as the diving bird.
- While Priam is mourning his son, Paris absconds with Helen, sparking the Trojan War. Hostile winds delay the Greeks until the wrath of Diana is quelled by the sacrifice of Iphigenia, who is replaced by a doe at the last minute.
- As soon as the Greeks arrive, a battle ensues. Cycnus, the son of Neptune, alone slays over a thousand Greeks, including Protesilaus. Achilles cannot harm Cycnus due to his impenetrable skin, so he strangles him with his own helmet strap. He then turned into a swan.
- The young maiden raped by Neptune was Caenis. Neptune grants her one wish. She wishes to be changed into a man, so that she will never be raped again. She is changed into Caenus, a powerful warrior.
- He attends the wedding ceremony of Pirithous, son of Ixion, and Hippodamia.
- A centaur, Eurytus, drags Hippodamia off to rape her. Other centaurs follow his lead. Theseus kills Eurytus and a brawl ensues. The impenetrable skin of Caenus infuriates the centaurs, who throw mountains at him. The weight of these objects either pushed him into the underworld or turned him into a bird.
- Neptune and Apollo plot against Achilles. Apollo guides Paris to shoot an arrow at Achilles, which he does.

Book XIII

- Ajax and Odysseus verbally contend for the arms of Achilles. Ajax emphasizes his exploits on the battlefield and the fact that he has been part of the fight since its inception, unlike Ulysses. He cites his divine ancestry and points out that Ulysses left behind his comrade Nestor during a battle. He jeers that the arms would be too heavy for Ulysses and says Ulysses' own armor is in perfect condition. Ulysses says personal merit, not ancestry, should determine the victor. He says if ancestry is a factor, it's worth noting that his lineage is more illustrious than Ajax's. He says if joining a battle late is a vice, it's a vice he shares with the greatest Greek warrior, Achilles, whom he brought. He has scars to prove his battlefield heroics, which Ajax does not. Finally, he emphasizes his intellectualism. Ajax may know how to fight, but Ulysses knows when to fight. If Ajax is like a rower or soldier, he is like a captain or general. The chieftains award Ulysses the arms. Ajax takes his own life.
- Cassandra is made a slave, as are many other Trojan women. Hecuba is made a servant of Odysseus. Her daughter, Polyxena, is sacrificed to Achilles. Hecuba's last son,

Polydorus, who was sent to the king of Thrace, Polymestor, is treacherously slaughtered after Troy falls. Hecuba arranges a meeting with Polymestor and at the first opportunity gouges out his eyes with her hand. She is turned into a dog. Aurora, the goddess of dawn, witnesses the death of her son Memnon.

- Aeneas stops to see Anius, king and priest of Apollo. Anius says his daughters were stolen by Agamemnon because they can turn everything to grain, wine, and oil. When his daughters could no longer endure the servitude, they fled and became doves.
- The narrator tells of Galatea's love for Acis, the son of Faunus and a nymph. Polyphemus, who is also in love with Galatea, tries unsuccessfully to woo her. When Polyphemus sees Galatea and Acis together, he rages and throws a side of a mountain at them. Acis is killed, and Galatea is heartbroken.

Book XIV:

- Glaucus asks Circe to help him woo Scylla, but Circe is in love with Glaucus so she refuses. Instead, she transforms Scylla into a monster by causing dogs to grow from her waist. Scylla rages at Circe and kills several of Ulysses' men. Before she can destroy Aeneas's fleet, she is turned into a crag.
- After a short stay in Dido's kingdom, Aeneas goes to Sicily, where the Sibyl tells him he will find success. She also tells him that Apollo offered her anything she wanted in exchange for sex. She asked for longevity of life and he granted her this wish, but without the essential component of youth.
- Two Greek companions, Achaemenides and Macareus, were separated after the Trojan War. Odysseus accidentally leaves behind the former on Polyphemus' island. A ship later rescues him. Meanwhile, Macareus and Odysseus barely escape Antiphates, ruler of Lamos. They find Circe, who transforms the party into pigs with a drink. One man escapes and warns Odysseus, who, with Mercury's help, rescues the men.
- The men stay on Aeaea for 1 year. Macareus learns the story of Picus, a son of Saturn, who is in love with Canens, a beautiful and musical nymph. Circe falls in love with Picus, who is faithful to Canens. Circe creates a phantom boar to entice Picus on a hunting trip. Still he denies her, so she changes him into a woodpecker.
- Aeneas arrives on the shores of Latium. King Latinus welcomes Aeneas and offers his daughter in marriage. Turnus is outraged, because Latinus's daughter has been promised to him. Turnus asks Diomedes, the famed Greek warrior, for support, but Diomedes turns him down. Turnus decides to attack anyway. His plans to burn Aeneas's ships, but they miraculously turn into nymphs. He continues to fight and eventually dies. Aeneas fights so valiantly that he is made into a god. Ascanius, Aeneas's son, rules over the Latin kingdom.
- Pomona, a wood nymph, refuses countless suitors, including the god Vertumnus. Vertumnus disguises himself as an old woman and tells Pomona about Iphis, a man of humble origin, who loves Anaxarete, a noble girl. She does not love him, so he hangs himself. When she finds out, she is unmoved, and even mocks his funeral. Aphrodite turns her into stone. After Vertumnus finishes the tale, he reveals himself. He is about to take Pomona by force, but his story has moved her, and she gives herself to him.

- After Proca's reign, a new war breaks out between the Romans and Sabines. When peace is established, Romulus brings both people under one law, and he is deified.

Book XV:

- Numa leaves his hometown, Cures, and makes his way to Croton to learn about the nature of the universe. An old man tells him about the miraculous founding of the city. Hercules appears in a dream to Myscelus, the son of Alemon, and tells him to establish Croton. Myscelus is afraid to follow this order, because the penalty for leaving one's land is death. After Hercules again comes to him in a dream, Myscelus establishes Croton and goes unpunished.
- When Numa dies, his wife, Egeria, mourns deeply. Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, counsels her to limit her grieving. To comfort her, he tells her about his problems with his father's wife, Phaedra, and his terrible suffering. Egeria continues to weep and finally is transformed into a spring of water. Hippolytus tells the story of Cippus, whom the Etruscan high priest predicted would be king after seeing his horns. Cippus rejects kingship.
- After these stories, a terrible plague breaks out in Rome. Human effort is in vain, so the Romans appeal to the gods for help. They need Apollo's son, Asclepius, to overcome the plague. Asclepius appears to them first in a dream and then in person. The Romans worship him as a god and bring him to Rome, at which point the plague ceases. Ovid recounts the murder and deification of Caesar and the rise and future success of Augustus.