A Eulogy for Dido - SCP

**Eulogy**

A eulogy, a tradition dating as far back as ancient Greece, is funeral oration meant to lament one’s passing, extol their virtues and feats, and offer solace to their loved ones. We still prepare and perform eulogies in many ceremonies today because they offer us closure and help set our hearts at ease. To write a eulogy can be a heavy burden as well as a great honor.

In ancient Greece and Rome, eulogies were expected to follow a particular pattern. Eulogies were more-or-less expected to follow this particular structure:

***Preamble***

*The orator asserts that it is almost impossible for them to find words worthy of the glorious achievements of the dead.*

***Origin and Ancestors***

*The orator acknowledges the lineage and history of the deceased.*

***Virtues and Feats***

*The orator lists the noble traits of the deceased and recalls their heroic, brave, or otherwise grand deeds.*

***Epilogue***

*The orator offers consolation or encouragement for the relatives and loved ones of the dead.*

Your job is to write a eulogy for Dido. Write your eulogy as if it were to be read at a proper funeral for Dido after her suicide. Your eulogy should be 250-400 words.

**Other things to keep in mind when writing.**

* Use Homeric and Virgilian language (epithets, similes, metaphors, imagery)
* Write in 2nd person; Greek eulogies are spoken *to* the dead
* Show clear shifts in tone; consider this pattern: *mournful* -> *celebratory* -> *hopeful/content*
* You will probably need to do a bit of research on Dido, but don’t worry about citing sources

**Exemplar:**

Oh Patroclus, to extol your virtues now, to dress your corpse, to sing of your feats, to bellow our dirges and reveal our mournful lament is all that we can do, for we cannot bring you back from the far banks of the Styx. What I say now can do you no justice, for your soul was too kind, too noble, too brave to be captured by the words of mortals.

Patroclus, son of Menoetius, beloved comrade of Achilles, skilled warrior of Phthia, hear now our cries as you descend.

To Troy you sailed with your Myrmidons, and great Achilles too. For years you fought and slew for Greece. Many Trojans you sent down to Hades eternal, many arms you stripped from their defeated bodies. And when enraged Achilles would not fight, you donned his armor and slew mighty Sarpedon, whom Zeus himself did love; he fell powerless beneath your noble spear. And Cebriones, who drove brave Hector’s chariot, was not your match either. You fought for your Achaeans, and now, in death, you bring them glory.

Patroclus, fear not for your Argives as you wander Elysuim’s vast fields; your death has spurred them on. Achilles, ever wrathful, has avenged your death tenfold, and now Hector, Ilium’s mightiest soldier, lies dead by his hand; you are avenged. The war we’ve waged fast ten years now will soon draw to a close; Troy’s last day is near, and as we storm its walls and claim Helen and all her treasures, the Argives will rally to your name: Patroclus, hero of the Argives.

**Eulogy Rubric**

**Textual Accuracy:** the piece speaks accurately and thoroughly about the subject matter

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| A+ A A-  The student’s writing reveals a clear and thorough understanding of the subject matter. The piece itself offers rich insight to the source material. | B+ B B-  The student’s writing reveals a clear understanding of the subject matter. The piece itself offers some insight to the source material. | C+ C C-  The student’s writing reveals a somewhat limited or misunderstanding of the subject matter. The piece itself offers little insight to the source material. | NCE  The student’s writing reveals a lack of understanding of the source material; the piece offers no insight into the source material. |

**Structure:** the eulogy contains the proper elements in the proper order to closely mimic the structure of a true Greek or Roman eulogy

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| A+ A A-  The student’s eulogy adheres to structure and thoroughly accomplishes each separate task. | B+ B B-  The student’s eulogy follows to structure and works to accomplish each separate task. | C+ C C-  The student’s eulogy attempts to follow the structure and somewhat manages to accomplish each separate task. | NCE  The student’s eulogy does not follow the classic structure of a eulogy. |

**Voice:** elegant, deliberate language is used to create the proper tone in the piece

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| A+ A A-  The student’s writing is eloquent and precise. The piece achieves a clear tone and indicates well any shift in mood. | B+ B B-  The student’s writing is sensible and clear. The piece achieves a tone and indicates any shift in mood. | C+ C C-  The student’s writing is inconsistent or obtuse. The piece struggles to achieve a specific tone or mood. | NCE  The student’s writing is sloppy and unclear. The piece achieves an improper tone or no discernable tone at all. |