

LANGUAGE FAIR 2026
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.