

Impressions of Aeneas?

Mostly a spectator, but some actions, and other people refer to him, and react to him

290 he draws his sword bravely but pointlessly

317ff he is amazed and concerned by unhappy souls at the river, and asks the Sibyl about them

331f after her explanation he thinks about and feels sorry for souls who cannot cross

340ff he recognises Palinurus and is surprised and disappointed that he did not reach Italy.
quis te eripuit NOBIS? (Also he receives, listens to and believes prophecies from the gods)

But it is the Sibyl who replies.

387ff Charon addresses him, but the Sibyl replies. She praises him as *pietate insignis et armis*

413 brief, physical description of Aeneas as very different from the souls as he gets into the boat. He is "ingentem" and the boat groans.

There is a strong sense that he is under the guidance and control of the Sibyl. He asks questions, rather than answering them, and he observes.

However, she praises him:

"Troius Aeneas, pietate insignis et armis" (line 403)

Also Palinurus refers to him as "invicte", and as someone who might be allowed to take him across the river. Or he thinks that he might go to find his body and give it burial. (lines 365-371)

Other characters

There is stronger impression of the other characters: Sibyl, Charon and Palinurus

Sibyl: in control and knowledgeable

292f she tells Aeneas that the "horrors" etc. are not real

321ff she explains about the river, Charon and the hundred years.

372ff she tells Palinurus off for hoping to cross the river before his time, but reassures him.

398ff Charon has asked Aeneas questions, but she replies. And she praises Aeneas as
"pietate insignis et armis"

406 She has the Golden Bough, and she reveals it.

Charon:

physical description - scruffy, old but strong

character - grim, in charge and bossy, working himself, old but strong.

words quick to tell Aeneas off;

proud of his history even if he made mistakes;

silent as he accepts Aeneas - but only because of the Golden Bough

Palinurus

i) the first description of his accident is not told by him but is part of the narrative. (He was doing his job properly)

ii) Aeneas reacts: he does not understand

iii) Palinurus' explanation shows a) that he himself was not to blame; b) that he was worried more about the ship than about his own situation, c) that Apollo did not lie.

We feel sympathy for him, and the Sibyl reassures him, leaving him happy.