

Student 3

Low Merit

*Ac veluti summis antiquam in montibus ornum cum ferro crebrisque bipennibus instant eruere agricolae certatim, illa usque minatr et tremefacta comam concusso vertice nutat vulneribus donec paulatim evicta supremum congemuit tracitque iugis avulse ruinam.*

And just as farmers strive in competition to overthrow an ancient mountain-ash tree on the highest peaks, struck with iron and frequent axe-blows, it constantly threatens and quivering shakes its leaves at every stroke until it is gradually overcome by its wounds, it groans its last and crashes in ruin, torn from its mountain ridge.

A simile is a technique which is used to give the reader a picture in their mind of the thing which they are reading, and compares the thing to another thing in order to achieve this. In these lines Virgil compares the fall of Troy to the Greeks to the fall of an ash tree to farmers with axes (1). He describes the fall of the tree as being a drawn-out process where over time *paulatim* (2) due to "frequent axe blows" (3) from the farmers, it grows weaker and weaker until it finally gives up and crashes to the ground in a wreck (4.) Vergil specifically talks about the ash tree being *summis antiquam* – the highest and ancient (5). Through this use of a simile he tells his audience what Troy was, and what it is now.