Goal: use SIFT to gather details. Then make a thesis statement connecting our evidence to an argument about a central theme in “Phaethon”

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| **SIFT** | **Guiding Questions** |  |
| **S**- Syntax | How does the author arrange words? This includes word order, as well as the length and/or structure of a sentence or sentences. | Short dialogue, long for description (Ovid 22 vs. 23-24)🡪quick, accessible sentences, but more elaborate details of surroundings. The quick discussion could be hinting at the fiery, quick decisions by Phaethon. Most stanzas end with nouns “father” “you” “rumour” “son” “Phaethon” (Ovid 22-23). People, things, and desires as nouns are the central focus. That is eventually Phaethon’s undoing and what he should avoid.  |
| **I**- Imagery | How does the author utilize details that invoke the senses – sight, taste, touch, smell, or sound? | Light “by the dazzling ball itself…great star which lights up the whole world” “I pray to go blind and never see the light of day” (Ovid 23). Helps the reader connect to the brightness of the sun. Could be connected to confidence as fiery brightness—too little makes one dim, but too much means one is burnt. Colors “gold” “ivory” “flame” “seas” (Ovid 23). Vivid multiple colors can show the difference of perspectives in a society or different emotions.  |
| **F**- Figurative Language | How does the author utilize nonliteral (imaginative) language – including simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, understatement, etc.? | Repetition: “If it’s true…if the sun…if he is…” “Give me proof. Give me evidence.” (Ovid 22). This is done for emphasis to display the lack of patience by the Phaethon and also his poor decision making. Simile: “The silver doors like sheet flame—“. Not sure why silver would be connected with fire…Hyperbole: “head ablaze”. Meant to show how quickly he makes decisions without real thought. Also, could be connecting him to his father as a “little ember” of the sun. Does that mean that he was destined to make this bad choice? |
| **T**- Tone | What is the speaker’s attitude toward the subject as conveyed by the speaker’s stylistic choices. | Objective, third person description of surroundings “he crossed his own land, Ethiopia, then India” (Ovid 23). This allows the reader to track the story and understand what is going on. It also means that the reader can use this as contrast to the poor, unthoughtful judgment of Phaethon. Insight into the thoughts of the characters “defend her honour against the old rumour” (Ovid 22). The audience can understand the underpinnings of individual characters. Knowing their thoughts is necessary to build motive which impact their actions.  |