The present work intends to contribute to the description of Thucydides’ lexicon of pain through an analysis of the adjective ἀλγεινός. The adjective shares its root with the noun ἄλγος, one of the many Homeric terms that made it to Classical antiquity only through its use in poetry. Being an alternative form of the epic term ἀλεγεινός, during the 5th century its use was particularly popular in tragedies, with a few rare occurrences in prose. The fact that the few instances of ἀλγεινός in Thucydides’ works belong to solemn contexts such as Pericles' Funeral Oration (2. 39, 2. 43) and the Sicilian Expedition (7. 68 with the noun-based superlative ἄλγιστος, 7. 75) clearly shows that this term belongs to a high and tragic register. In addition, it is a testament to Thucydides’ sensitivity to the nuances of contemporary poetic language, which the comments on his work sometimes fail to note. In this case it is significant that the historian used much more frequently the term λυπηρός (11x), based on the post-Homeric term λύπη, which lacked the stylistic markedness of ἀλγεινός.