

Directions: Read pages 397 – 410 in the English IV British Literature textbook, which include:

- Introduction – John Milton
- Introduction – *Paradise Lost*: Milton’s Epic
- Introduction – The Fall of Satan
- The Fall of Satan (from *Paradise Lost*)

After reading each of the introductions and the excerpt from *Paradise Lost*, answer the following questions.

1. Whom does Milton call upon at the beginning of the epic (lines 6 – 16)?
2. What question does he ask about Adam and Eve (lines 27 – 33)?
3. What is Milton’s purpose in writing this epic poem (lines 24 – 26)?
4. Why was Satan cast out of Heaven (lines 41 – 43)?
5. In his first speech, what does Satan tell Beelzebub that he will never do (line 96)?
6. What course does he favor instead (lines 105 – 124)?
7. According to lines 210 – 220, who allows Satan the freedom to pursue his evil intentions?
8. In his last speech (lines 258 – 263), what does Satan claim are the advantages of life in Hell?

Thinking Critically

9. According to Milton, how is the rebellion of Satan and the angels against God connected to “man’s first disobedience” and the origin of evil in the world? How does Milton explain the existence of evil in a world created by a loving God?
10. Re-read Milton’s first description of Hell in lines 53 – 74. How is Hell both a psychological state and a physical place? What do you make of the poet’s use of an **oxymoron** in the phrase “darkness visible” (line 63)? (An oxymoron is a figure of speech that relies on a paradox, or a self-contradictory idea.)

11. In his opening speech, Satan vows never to “repent or change” (line 96). Nevertheless, where can you catch hints that the angel longs for his former state? How might this yearning relate to Milton’s mention of “the thought...of lost happiness” in lines 54 – 55?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. In lines 210 – 220, the speaker offers a solemn assurance that despite all Satan’s power and grandeur, the devil is still subject to God’s purposes. How do these lines contribute a level of **dramatic irony** to Satan’s ringing assertion of freedom in lines 242 – 270?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. How do people today still use the arguments and rationalizations used by Satan and his old crony Beelzebub in lines 143 – 168?

*Paradise Lost* Vocabulary

For each vocabulary word, write the part of speech, the definition, and create an original sentence.

1. **Transgress**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

2. **Infernal**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

3. **Guile**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

4. **Affliction**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

5. **Contention**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

6. **Ignominy**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

7. **Impetuous**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

8. **Desolation**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

9. **Reiterated**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence:

10. **Malice**

- a. Part of speech:
- b. Definition:
- c. Sentence: