

Dante Study Guide

Be able to define the following words:

Word	Definition
Allegory	
Allusion	
Imagery	
Personification	
Point of View	
Terza Rima	format of Divine Comedy verses: stanzas of 3 lines
Symbol	

Be able to answer the following questions from the text:

1. What is the number three symbolic of?
2. What language was the Inferno written in? **Italian. Most things were written in Latin.**
3. How many parts are in the Divine Comedy? What are their names? **(the three poems - parts of afterlife)**
4. How many heads does Satan have? Who is he chewing? **(Canto 34)**
5. How many lines are in a stanza of terza rima?
6. What is symbolic retribution (retributive justice)? **(what does it mean?)**
7. What is the Divine Comedy an allegory of?
8. What do the words "our life's journey" symbolize? **(I)**
9. What three animals does Dante encounter? What do they represent? **(I)**
10. Which of the three animals is the worst? How do you know? **(I)**
11. Who guides Dante through hell?
12. What is symbolic of Dante's journey happening from Good Friday to Easter Sunday?
13. What is the theme of Canto 1?
14. What is sleep symbolic of? **(I was drugged + loose w/ sleep)**

15. What does the following phrase mean: "I fell to my soul's ruin"?
16. Why is Virgil in Limbo?
17. What message is inscribed into a stone over the entrance into Hell?
18. What is the primary cause of Charon's anger toward Dante? (111)
19. Who is the ferryman of Hell?
20. Why does the author describe Charon saying "a wheel of flame around each eye"?
21. What motif is seen in the following words "coiled and recoiled", "whirlwind", and "swarm"?
22. Why are the souls in Canto 3 described as "eager" to cross Acheron into Hell?
23. In what circle of hell does Minos judge where each soul belongs?
24. What is the theme of Canto 5?
25. What does the wind in the second circle of hell symbolize?
26. Why does Francesca says "That book, and he who wrote it, was a pander" of the story of Lancelot?
27. Why does Dante feel confused when Virgil points out the souls of "the great knights and ladies of dim time"?
28. What detail of her story does Francesca omit?
29. What punishment do Judas, Cassius, and Brutus endure? (34)
30. How do Dante and Virgil escape from Hell? (34)
31. What do Satan's wings symbolize? (34)
32. What is the irony of Satan's position? (34)
33. How is Satan personified? (34)
34. What does Dante feel is the worse of sins? How do you know? (34)
35. What does Virgil tell Dante about the world seeming upside down when they emerge from Hell? (34)
36. Where do Dante and Virgil climb at the end of Canto 34?
37. What is the theme of the Inferno?
38. ~~Who would most likely be placed in Circle Two: The Lustful?~~
39. ~~Who would most likely be placed in Circle 5: The Wrathful and Bitter?~~
40. What or who is Dis?
41. ~~What circle of hell do people who commit suicide go to?~~