

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.)



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: