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from Paradise Lost: Book I

	Central Quote:
	-
	PRE-GRAMMAR Preparation Prepare to think about the poem and its Central One Idea by drawing upon your prior knowledge, experience, or interests.
1.	What is your favorite epic battle from literature or film? Tell about it here, and why you like it.

GRAMMAR | Presentation

Discover essential facts, elements, and features of the poem through the Reading Notes, Words to Be Defined, and Comprehension Questions.

READING NOTES

- 1. **John Milton** (1608-1674) For more information, read the biography given in the *Poetry Book* II anthology.
- 2. Heavenly Muse (l. 6ff.) Urania, the muse of sacred poetry in Greek mythology. In these lines Milton connects Urania with the Holy Spirit, who in the Old Testament inspired "that shepherd" Moses to receive and interpret God's word.
- **Oreb and Sinai** (1. 7) Mt. Horeb and Mt. Sinai, the locations where God delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses. The location of Mt. Horeb is unknown; Mt. Sinai is located on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.
- Chaos (l. 10) the ruler of the realm of confusion on the edge of hell
- Aonian Mount (l. 15) a mountainous region in Greece, specifically Mt. Helicon, the home of the Muses
- **perdition** (l. 47) eternal punishment; damnation
- adamantine (l. 48) unbreakable
- **ken** (l. 59) range of knowledge; perception
- **durst** (l. 102) past tense of the word *dare*
- 10. Seraphim (l. 129) angels with three wings; members of the highest order of angels
- 11. rood (l. 196) an archaic measure of land, about a quarter of an acre
- 12. Pelorus (l. 232) a specific promontory; a high area of rock in Sicily
- **13.** Etna (l. 233) an active volcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy
- **14. epic poetry** a long narrative poem in elevated or dignified language that tells the story of a hero and reflects the values of a culture
- 15. enjambment In poetry, the continuation of a sentence without pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza. Milton uses this technique frequently in *Paradise Lost*; thus, **be sure** to pay more attention to punctuation than to line breaks as you read the poem.
- **16.** in medias res Latin: "In the middle of things." For example, all of Shakespeare's plays begin in the middle of action that has already begun before the opening of the first act.

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

	a very steep drop	cunning; slyness	lacking consciousness
	bitterly regret	defeated; conquered	refusing to change course of
	blasphemous; heretical	disgrace; degradation	action; unyielding
	brighten	doubtful; uncertain	relating to punishment
	celestial; heavenly	heavenly; divine	to break or go against
			wild; turbulent
1.	Illumine , what is low raise ar	nd support, v. (l. 23)	
2.	From their Creator, and trans	gress his will, v. (l. 31)	
3.	Th' infernal Serpent; he it was	s whose guile , n. (l. 34)	
4.	Raised impious war in Heave	en and battle proud, adj. (l. 43)	
5.	Hurled headlong flaming from	m th' ethereal sky, <i>adj</i> . (l. 45)	
6.	In adamantine chains and per	nal fire, <i>adj</i> . (l. 48)	
7.	Lay vanquished , rolling in th	e fiery gulf, v. (l. 52)	
8.	Mixed with obdurate pride an	nd steadfast hate. <i>adj</i> . (1. 58)	
9.	With floods and whirlwinds of	of tempestuous fire, adj. (1. 77))
10.	In dubious battle on the plain	ns of Heaven, <i>adj</i> . (l. 104)	

Definitions Bank

11. That were an **ignominy** and shame beneath, *n*. (l. 115)

12.	Too well I see and rue the dire event, v. (l. 134)
13.	The fiery surge, that from the precipice , <i>n</i> . (l. 173)
14.	Not by the sufferance of supernal Power. <i>adj</i> . (l. 241)
15.	Lie thus astonished on th' oblivious pool, <i>adj</i> . (l. 266)
	Read Paradise Lost: Book I, marking the poem in key places.
CC	MPREHENSION QUESTIONS
1.	What poetic form is the poem <i>Paradise Lost</i> ? What is its meter and rhyme scheme ?
2.	What epic convention does Milton employ in lines 6ff. that announces his epic intentions?
3.	Fast by the oracle of God, I thence Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song, That with no middle flight intends to soar Above th' Aonian Mount, while it pursues Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme. (Il. 12-16) Whom does Milton invoke, and what highly significant aim does he announce?
4.	Who first seduced them (our "grandparents") to that foul revolt? Why did he do it? Quote
	a line or two from the poem for your answer.

Give a brief description of the place where Satan was thrown. Include a line or two from the poem for your answer.
What important resolution does Satan make at lines 94ff.?
And shook his throne. What though the field be lost?
All is not lost; the unconquerable will, And study of revenge, immortal hate,
And courage never to submit or yield:
And what is else not to be overcome? (Il. 105-109)
How does the use of anaphora add force to Satan's growing resolution?
"Fallen Cherub, to be weak is miserable" (l. 157)
What does Satan, along with his followers, resolve to do in the following lines?
What simile is used to describe Satan in the stanza beginning at line 192? To whom he compared?
Who leaves Satan "at large to his own dark designs"?

LOGIC | Dialectic

Reason with the facts, elements, and features of the poem; sort, arrange, compare, and connect ideas – and begin to uncover and determine the Central One Idea. Discussion of the Socratic Questions may include note-taking in the Literature Notebook, or they may be answered in written form in the Literature Notebook.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

... what in me is dark

Illumine, what is low raise and support;

That to the height of this great argument,

I may assert Eternal Providence,

And justify the ways of God to men. (ll. 22-26)

Summarize these lines. What is involved in what Milton asks? What is his aim?

- 2. How does Milton's pitting of God and Satan in opposition remind us of epics that involve famous battles?
- According to Milton, why did God leave Satan "at large to his own dark designs" (l. 213)?
- The mind is its own place, and in itself Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven. (ll. 254-255) Do you agree with Satan's words here?

RHETORIC | Expression

Express in your own words the Central One Idea with supporting points. The ability to organize and express your thoughts in your Literature Notebook is an important skill in the presentation of your Central One Idea.

RHETORICAL EXPRESSION (abbreviated):

To be answered in your Literature Notebook in preparation for your essay.

- 1. In 2-3 sentences, briefly **summarize** the poem.
- **2.** Write the **Central One Idea** of the poem in a precise, eloquent sentence.
- Choose a line or two from anywhere in the poem that you think best embodies the Central One Idea. With good penmanship, write it in the Central Quote section at the beginning of this section.

0	CENTRAL ONE IDEA (as expressed by the teacher)	