

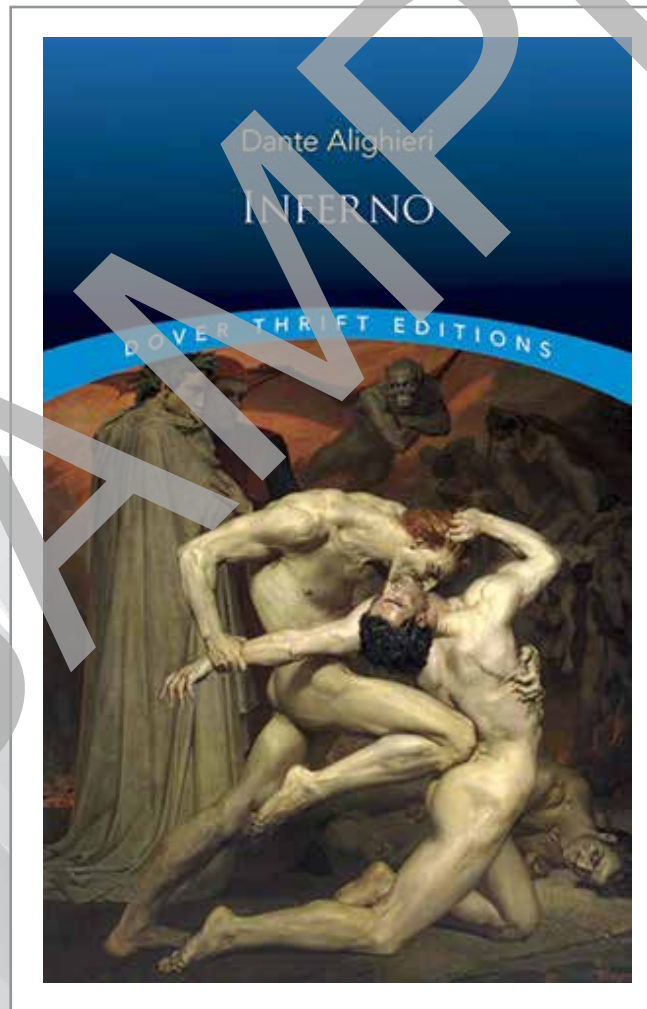


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Inferno

Dante Alighieri



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Inferno

Dante Alighieri

STUDENT PACKET

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

squalid (1, 7, 97)
papal (2, 13, 27)
artificer (3, 21, 4)
abject (3, 23, 47)
celestial (3, 27, 125)
covert (4, 33, 51)
benign (5, 45, 88)
bereft (7, 61, 46)
insolence (8, 75, 124)

sate (1, 7, 98)
prudent (2, 17, 82)
lamentations (3, 21, 22)
melancholy (3, 25, 77)
abyss (4, 31, 8)
connoisseur (5, 41, 9)
schism (6, 53, 63)
avarice (7, 61, 48)

empyrean (2, 13, 20)
innocuous (2, 17, 90)
turbid (3, 21, 29)
execrated (3, 25, 103)
vanquishes (4, 33, 48)
licit (5, 43, 56)
sage (97, 59, 3)
presumptuous (8, 71, 46)

Note: The location of the vocabulary words is indicated by canto, page number, and line (c., p., l.).

Directions: Match each vocabulary word with the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. squalid | a. harmless |
| ___ 2. sate | b. sadness, dejection, gloom |
| ___ 3. empyrean | c. very deep gulf or pit |
| ___ 4. papal | d. careful, discreet |
| ___ 5. prudent | e. a division in a church or political party |
| ___ 6. innocuous | f. mean and dirty |
| ___ 7. artificer | g. secret, veiled |
| ___ 8. lamentations | h. critical expert in matters of taste |
| ___ 9. turbid | i. wise, discreet |
| ___ 10. abject | j. sky; of the heavens |
| ___ 11. melancholy | k. insulting, offensive |
| ___ 12. execrated | l. craftsman |
| ___ 13. celestial | m. bereaved, left desolate |
| ___ 14. abyss | n. lawful, allowed |
| ___ 15. vanquishes | o. greediness |
| ___ 16. covert | p. mild, gentle, favorable |
| ___ 17. connoisseur | q. office of the pope |
| ___ 18. licit | r. forward, taking liberties |
| ___ 19. benign | s. fully gratify |
| ___ 20. schism | t. conquers |
| ___ 21. sage | u. passionate expressions of grief |
| ___ 22. bereft | v. hated, cursed |
| ___ 23. avarice | w. muddy, thick |
| ___ 24. presumptuous | x. mean, despicable, outcast |
| ___ 25. insolence | y. heavenly, divine |

Name _____

Directions: Write an answer to each question on separate paper. Use your answers during class discussion, for writing assignments, or to review for tests. An * indicates a thought or opinion question.

Canto I, pp. 2-9

1. *Where and at what stage of his life does Dante find himself? Why is he here?
2. *Describe the beasts he encounters and their purpose.
3. Who does Dante meet and what is the purpose of his traveling companion?

Canto II, pp. 12-19

1. *To whom does Dante pray? What does each one represent? Why do you think he doesn't pray to a Christian deity?
2. Identify the three women to whom Virgil refers.

Canto III, pp. 20-27

1. *Summarize the inscription above the Gate of Hell. What emotion does this stir in Dante?
2. Who are the first souls Dante encounters in Hell? What causes them to wail so loudly? How are they treated?
3. *Explain Virgil's statement, "...if Charon has complained of you, by now you can be sure what his words mean."

Canto IV, pp. 30-39

1. *How does Virgil react to the entrance to the First Circle (Limbo)? What does Dante first notice? What effect does this have on Dante?
2. Why are the souls in the First Circle?
3. *Who are the souls around the fire and what effect does Dante's presence have on them?

Canto V, pp. 40-47

1. Explain Minos' role.
2. Explain the sin that doomed the souls to the Second Circle. List five of those who inhabit this circle and tell something about them. If no information is given, research the characters.

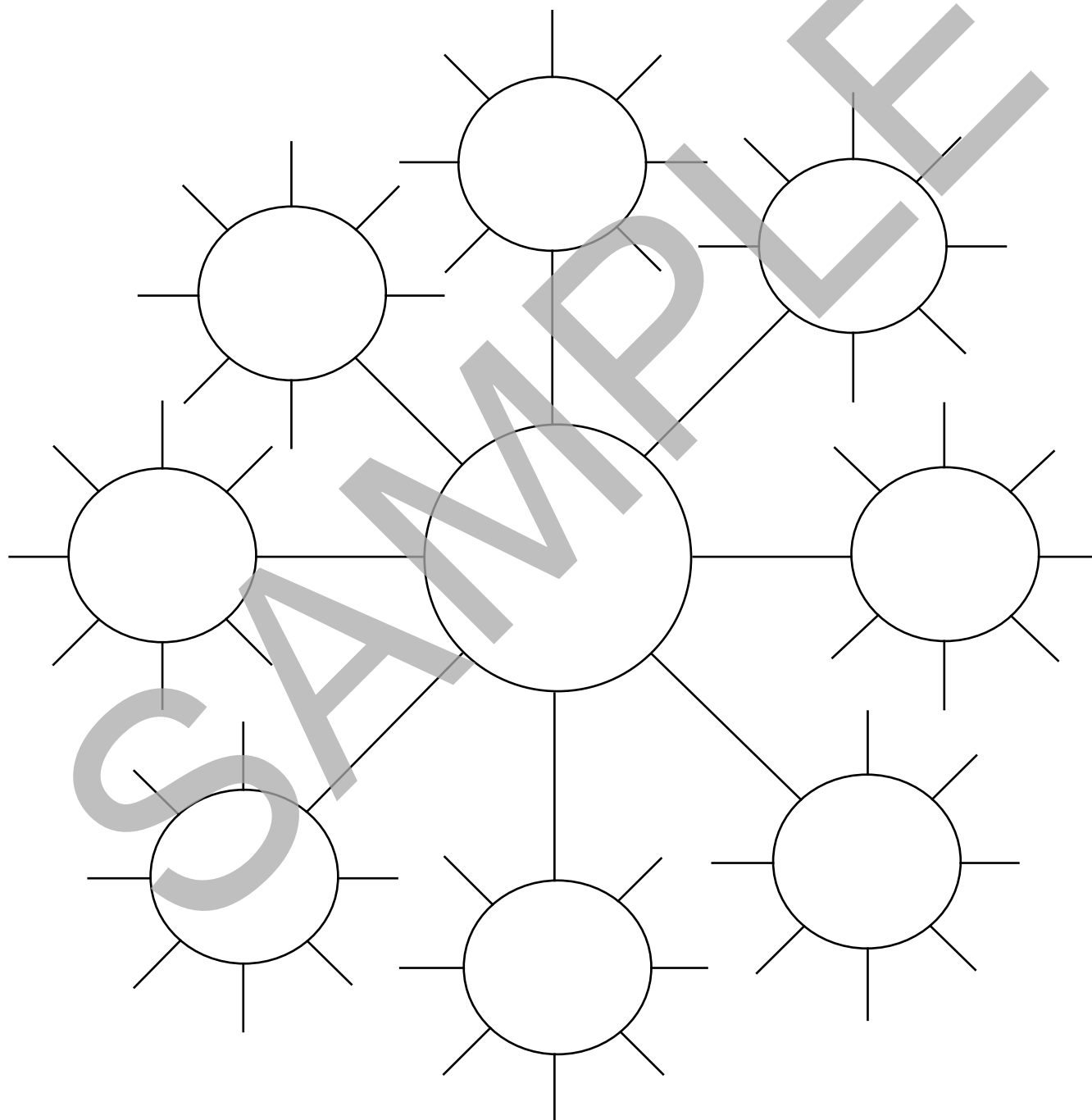
Canto VI, pp. 50-57

1. Describe Cerberus and identify his role in the Third Circle.
2. *Whom does Dante meet that he had known previously? What does he tell Dante? How do you feel about the spirit's request to be remembered?

Name _____

Attribute Web

Directions: Place Dante's name in the center circle. In the smaller circles, fill in verbs, such as "fear." On the lines, supply words to follow each of the verbs; for example, he might fear "the demons."



Name _____

Cause and Effect

Directions: Place the word Hell in the box marked "Effect." Choose six characters from six different circles in Hell and state the cause of their presence in Hell.

