

Group Member Names: Kelsie Fernsler, Madi Yoder, Madie Forell, Jake Kossa, Levi Cherri

English Literature - Analytical Literature Review

TITLE: Dante's Inferno

AUTHOR: Dante Alighieri

<p>Historical context - what do you know about the author's time (political, social, philosophical) that is relevant to the text and its theme?</p> <p>It was the end of middle ages. God Centered; Lived on Earth to get to Heaven. Beginning of Renaissance. Man Centered; Rebirth of learning. Church called the shots in Middle Ages. Picked 'separate church from state" and wrote about it. Part of the Medieval Literary Tradition It was one of the first novels written in the English vernacular.</p>		
<p>Setting - location, region, country, historical period - how does setting influence characterization? How does setting influence theme?</p> <p>It takes place in the different circles of Hell.</p>	<p>Author Biography - what do you know about the author that gives information about the text, its themes, and its significance?</p> <p>Dante was born May 1265 in Florence, Italy. Dante served in the army. His great love was Beatrice, he worshiped her his entire life. Had an arranged marriage in 1291 with Gemma Bonati.</p>	
<p>Inciting Incident - what character and/or events cause the conflict? How does the inciting incident inform theme?</p> <p>When Dante comes to the woods and decides to go to hell or the path of righteousness.</p>	<p>Internal Conflict - What characters struggle internally? How and why? Does this conflict inform theme?</p> <p>Dante was trying to decide if he was going to live a prosperous life or a life of sin. Had to decide where to put certain people in levels of hell.</p>	<p>External Conflict- Between whom/what? Why? How does conflict inform theme?</p> <p>There were conflicts between the people being held in the circles of Hell.</p>

--	--	--

Symbolism - abstract or concrete? What are they? How does symbolism inform theme?

The punishments of the circles of Hell represents what the sinners did in their life to be placed in Hell, also known as contrapasso.

Characterization - Name & Analysis of major characters. how and what type - flat/round? Static/dynamic? Stock? Protagonist/Antagonist/Foil? Motivation? Attitudes? How does characterization inform theme?

Dante- On a mission. He chooses to go to Hell and put certain people in different layers of hell.
 Virgil- Helps Dante through his entire trip. Guides him through all the rings of hell.

Tone - How is the author’s and/or speaker’s attitude evident in the text?

It is an allegory- literal plot deals entirely in symbols instilling the story with a second level of meaning implied by, but broader than, the events of the narrative.
 Written in Tercets.
 Intertemporality- The mingling of elements from different time periods.

Figurative language and literary devices - what devices are most prominent? What do they mean? How does the meaning relate to the theme?

Symbolism, allegory, alliteration, metaphor. and visual imagery.

Universal application - What specific themes are relevant to life/the human condition beyond the pages of the text? Answer “so what?” for the themes—why does this text matter?

All people know some form of sin and thus wander lost in a dark wood; path to righteousness.
 Many people struggle to find themselves and what they want their life to consist of.

