

**Questions for Cantos I, II, and III**

Many questions have a right or wrong answer that can be found through careful re-reading or looking at the notes at the end of the chapter. Other questions are open to interpretation and discussion.

1. Canto I, line 118
  - a. Why can't Virgil lead Dante into Heaven? (comprehension question, check notes!)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. If Virgil represents human reason, what does this passage suggest about what it takes to get into "Heaven"? (interpretation question; "Heaven" is in quotation marks to remind people that it is an idea subject to many interpretations, not just the traditional religious one)
  
2. Canto II, lines 13 to 15
  - a. What are these three lines talking about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Who is "you" (13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Who is the "father of Sylvius" (13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What does it mean to "still/ [be] in corruptible flesh"?
    - i. Why is that flesh "corruptible"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - ii. What is the connection between the words *incarnate*, *reincarnated*, and *chili con carne*? (Don't be afraid to use a dictionary)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. When did the father of Sylvius "cross with mortal sense the immortal sill?" (hint – unlike most people now living in the modern world, you actually do know the answer to this question)
  
3. Canto II, lines 51 to 74
  - a. Who is the "Lady" in line 52?

- b. Who is the “Mantuan whose melodies/live in the earth’s memory” (58)? (hint – “the earth’s memory” is *you*: do you remember the melody?)
  - c. Who is “my dearest friend”?
  - d. What does the answer to A ask the answer to B do for the answer to C?
4. Canto III, line 1 – Who (or *what*) is “I”?
5. Canto III, line 23 – How does the detail of Hell’s sky being “starless” add to the sense that all who reside there are forever lost?
6. Canto III, lines 31 to 66
- a. What appears to be the crime of the “souls” mentioned in line 31?
  - b. What is the connection between these “souls” and the “corps/of angels” who didn’t take a side in the war between God and Satan? (Satan, then called Lucifer, was the highest angel in Heaven until he rebelled against God. He lost the ensuing battle and was thrown down into Hell with all those who had joined in his rebellion – by some accounts a third of all the angels.)
  - c. Do you think the punishment for these souls fits the crime? How or why/ how not and why not?
7. Canto III, line 80 – Who is the “old man with a blush of white hair”?
8. Canto III, lines 100 to 126
- a. Do you think that the souls of the damned curse their fate because they have been sent to Hell, or do you think they have been sent to Hell because they cursed their fate?
  - b. What simile does Dante use to describe the souls of the damned passing over into Hell?

Sophomore Honors English  
Mr. McBride

**Name:**

### **Questions for Cantos IV and V**

Many questions have a right or wrong answer that can be found through careful re-reading or looking at the notes at the end of the chapter. Other questions are open to interpretation and discussion.

9. Canto IV, line 32

- a. What is the first group of souls Dante sees in Hell?
  
  
- b. What is their sin?

10. Canto IV, lines 53 to 63

- a. Who is the "Mighty One" (53)?
  
  
  
  
  
- b. List the people the "Mighty One" took.
  
  
  
  
  
- c. How does this passage help to make the punishment of sinners seem fairer?

11. Canto IV, line 80

- a. Who is the "Prince of Poets"?
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Who is saying this?

12. Canto IV, lines 119 to 144 – List five of the "master souls of time" (119) that Dante meets in Limbo whom you recognize from your studies this year in 10X class.

13. Canto V, lines 39 to 50

a. What is the sin of those who are punished in Circle Two of Hell?

b. What is the punishment for those in Circle Two, and how does it fit their crime?

14. Canto V, lines 58 to 68—list two people Dante sees here that you have already read about this year and briefly describe what you know about them.

a.

b.

**Questions for Canto XXVI**

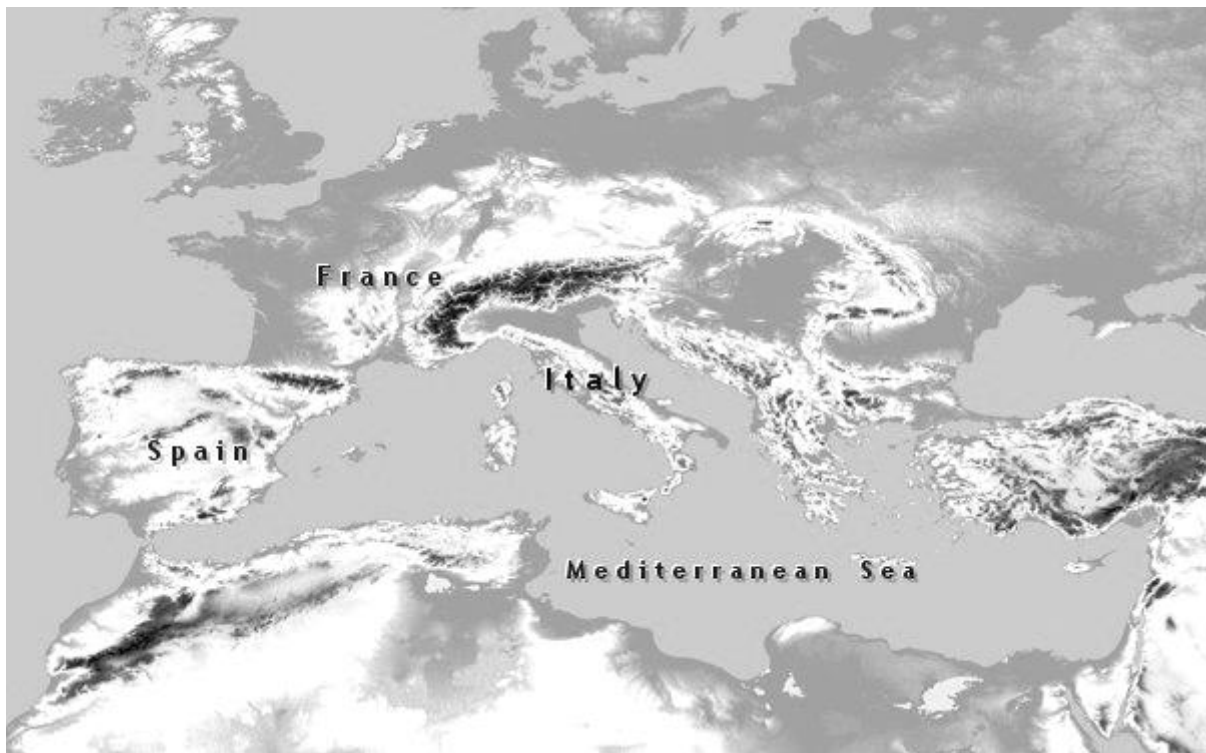
Remember that Ulysses is the Roman name for Odysseus. Some questions have a right or wrong answer that can be found through careful re-reading or looking at the notes at the end of the chapter. Other questions are open to interpretation and discussion. This is the section of the poem includes the passage that you can memorize for extra credit.

15. Canto XXVI, line 25:

a. Have you ever seen lots of fireflies at the same time? When and where?

b. The fireflies are the first part of a simile. What is being compared to a swarm of fireflies?

16. Canto XXVI, line 88 to 120: Draw a line on this map showing Ulysses' journey.



17. Canto XXVI, line 108: What does Ulysses mean when he refers to, “the brief remaining watch our senses stand”?

18. Canto XXVI, line 121 to 125: How long does Ulysses’ journey last?

19. Canto XXVI, line 131: Summarize the story that Ulysses tells to Virgil and Dante –how does he die?

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**Questions for Cantos XXXIII and XXXIV**

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20. Canto XXXIII, line 13

a. Who is Count Ugolino, and what is the story that he tells Dante?

b. Line 118: Is Friar Alberigo dead? How does the poem answer this question?

21. Canto XXXIV, line 28:

a. Draw a picture of Satan as he is depicted by Dante

b. Line 52: discuss the symbolism of Satan's position in a frozen lake that is frozen by the beating of his own wings as he tries to escape. What does this say about the nature of sin?

c. Lines 61 to 69: Who are the three sinners in Satan's three mouths? What did each do to earn their punishment?

d. Line 142: What is the final word of *Inferno*?