

[The Divine Comedy](#) is a narrative poem describing [Dante's](#) imaginary journey. Midway on his journey through life Dante realizes he has taken the wrong path. The Roman poet Virgil searches for the lost Dante at the request of Beatrice; he finds Dante in the woods on the evening of Good Friday in the year 1300 and serves as a guide as Dante begins his religious pilgrimage to find God. To reach his goal, Dante passes through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise.

The Divine Comedy was not titled as such by Dante; his title for the work was simply *Commedia* or *Comedy*. Dante's use of the word "comedy" is medieval by definition. To Dante and his contemporaries, the term "comedy" meant a tale with a happy ending, not a funny story as the word has since come to mean.

The Divine Comedy is made up of three parts, corresponding with Dante's three journeys: Inferno, or "Hell"; Purgatorio, or "Purgatory"; and Paradiso, or "Paradise." Each part consists of a prologue and approximately 33 cantos. Since the narrative poem is in an exalted form with a hero as its subject, it is an epic poem.

Dante and Virgil enter the wide gates of Hell and descend through the nine circles of Hell. In each circle they see sinners being punished for their sins on earth; Dante sees the torture as Divine justice.

Adapted from: A. P. Davis. "Dante's Inferno: Introduction." [MAXnotes for Dante's Inferno](#). Ed. Dr. Max Fogiel. Research & Education Association. 1994.[eNotes.com](#). 5 March 2009. <<http://www.enotes.com/inferno/>>.

Cantos I & III \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presentations: Each group must create a dramatic presentation of the readings given. The presentation should be 3-5 mins, include the characters Dante, Virgil, and any famous personalities, clearly state what part of hell is being presented, and why the punishment is related to the sin. Each group member must participate during the presentation.**

Group 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Group 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Group 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Group 2.5

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Group 3

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Group 4

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Group 5

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Group 6

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Canto XXXIV

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**Homework: Read pg 645-664 Ans # 8-13 Blog about #14 or 15**  
**Create one of the following: a map of the Inferno, one of the demons, and one of the circles/levels of Hell**