

***The Inferno* by Dante Alighieri (Published by New American Library)**

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts IV

Summary

Dante discovers when he is in his early forties that he is going down the wrong path. This allegory tells the story of Dante's descent into hell and his eventual return to purgatory and finally paradise. His two guides, Virgil and Beatrice, help him through the various levels of hell, purgatory, and paradise.

Connection to the Curriculum

This classic teaches the students a new form of poetry. It is written in terza rima, and the translation by John Ciardi is highly readable. Students also examine the historical context, language, and allusions of this medieval tale as well as the difficulties inherent in translating from Italian to English.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

Writing: 3.1- The students use writing as a tool for learning throughout the curriculum.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.2.1- The student adjusts reading rate to support comprehension when reading narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.4.8- The student understands the purpose of text features (e.g, title, graphs/charts and maps, table of contents, pictures/illustrations, boldface type, italics, glossary, index, headings, subheadings, topics and summary sentences, sidebars, underlining, numbered or bulleted lists, footnotes, annotations) and uses such features to locate information in and to gain meaning from appropriate-level texts.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the story of literary text.

2.1.3- The student analyzes and evaluates how the author uses various plot elements to advance the plot and make connections between events.

Writing:

3.9.33- The student writes persuasive pieces e.g., speeches, critical evaluations, editorials, letters of application, resumes, position papers, letters to the editor, and essays.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Dante's Inferno traces a man's descent into the nine levels of hell after he determines he is on the wrong path in life. There is mild violence associated with the punishment of sin. Ultimately, divine love helps the man make it to heaven.

AP Connections

This book of poetry is frequently referenced on the free response portion of both the Literature and Language AP Exams.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon