

Rhetoric Literature – Year 2
***Paradise Lost* - John Milton**
Due Co-op #13

Watch (listen) to the following video **before you read the poem**. There is no video – only audio. (Biographical information and a synopsis of the entire poem.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlUpe1Yblt8>

Also, please use this website to help you navigate the plot and the characters. You will mainly use the first section called *Paradise Lost* – the poem: Plot and Character sections.

You may enjoy the other sections as well. If you are interested in knowing more about Milton, the Contexts section has lots of info.

<http://darknessvisible.christs.cam.ac.uk/sitemap.html#paradiselost> **OR**

There is also a **plot summary of each book of PL at the end of Week 25** in the teacher notes. You could pull these and keep them with you as you read.

YouTube has several versions of this epic as an audiobook. I'm sure you can also find it on audiobooks.com. I highly recommend listening as you read. It will make a lot more sense.

Hopefully, having the synopsis in both audio form and on this website, you can know what you are looking for as you approach each book. **Be smart about spreading out your reading over the next three weeks. I suggest trying to read 4 books each week. You do not want to get behind and save it all to the end.**

Read *Paradise Lost* – just like *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, and *The Inferno*, do not get discouraged. Use tools to help you understand. Our goal is exposure and understanding the plot. In class, we will try to put all the pieces together.

Fill out the chart on The Epic.

Do character analysis.

Epic Characteristics in *Paradise Lost*

Unifying Hero: _____

Scope – long: _____

Encyclopedic (many episodes and characters)

Narrative of entire culture, kingdom, or society:

Focus on society's identity – who it is and what it stands for:

Nationalistic – hero is more than a private person:

Common motifs:

Warfare _____

Conquest _____

Kingdom _____

Formative events in life of a nation _____

Supernatural elements

Epic flaw/fail - _____

Epic feat – almost always the winning of the battle or establishing a kingdom

Quest _____

Compare the following characters in the given categories (work on these as you read, so you have a sampling of examples from beginning to end of story). Notice that I didn't give you a lot of space to write/type. Simple but thoughtful answers expected.

Christ

Physical description:

Actions:

Thoughts & Feelings:

Conflicts:

Relationships:

Satan

Physical description:

Actions:

Thoughts & Feelings:

Conflicts:

Relationships:

Adam

Physical description:

Actions:

Thoughts & Feelings:

Conflicts:

Relationships:

Eve

Physical description:

Actions:

Thoughts & Feelings:

Conflicts:

Relationships: