



Study Guide on John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Books I – VI)

What does Milton give as his purpose in the opening lines of the poem? What kind of project is *Paradise Lost*?

- Who is the “Heav’nly Muse” (I.6) whose aid Milton invokes? How does she relate to his poetry? What kind of existence does she have—true, fictional, allegorical?
- What does Milton think has been “unattempted yet in prose or rhyme” (I.16)? Is he right that it has never been attempted, either by pagan writers or Christian ones? Can we tell why Milton thinks that he will be able to accomplish it?
- What Spirit is Milton calling to at line 17? Why does Milton need to invoke a second being? How does the Spirit seem to stand to the Muse, and how to God?
- How will Milton go about his project, to “justify the ways of God to men” (I.26)? From this proem, does it seem this will be a work of theology, or of poetry?

What motivates Satan to make war against God? Consider Book I: 94 ff., 159–162, 254–263. What does Satan mean in saying that “Whom reason hath equaled, force hath made supreme / Above his equals” (I.248–9)? What does this show us about Satan’s perception of God?

Is Satan the hero of *Paradise Lost*? Does he exhibit admirable traits, or manifest nobility (See, for example, I.590–606, and II.1010 ff.)? How does Milton’s portrayal of Satan assist the purpose of the poem?

What motivates Satan to seek the fall of Adam and Eve? Consider Book I: 157–168, 187–91, 660–62, and Book II 380–85. Is this war against God and man “necessary,” or the result of resentment? Do the demons see it as futile or not?

Compare the three accounts of why the angels fell. What possible bias does each teller bring to his perspective? Do the accounts describe the same event without contradiction, or are there discrepancies? What is Milton trying to convey as the true account of why Satan revolted?

- Raphael’s account: consider V.657–665, 679–682, 689–693. What does Raphael see as Satan’s fault? Was there a catalyst to Satan’s turn away from God?
- The account of God the Father: “they themselves ordained their fall. / The first lost by their own suggestion fell, / Self-tempted, self-depraved” (III.128–130). Is this compatible with Raphael’s account? What, if anything, does God the Father’s explanation add to what we already knew?

Miltons Paradise Lost Study Guide

Ross Thompson



Milton's Paradise Lost Study Guide:

A Study Guide for John Milton's Paradise Lost Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-09-24 *Study Guide to Paradise Lost and Other Works by John Milton* Intelligent Education, 2020-06-28 A comprehensive study guide offering in depth explanation essay and test prep for selected works by John Milton who decided at a young age that God had called him to be a poet Titles in this study guide include Paradise Lost The Sonnets and Minor Poems On The Morning of Christ's Nativity L Allegro and Il Penseroso As a body of work of the seventeenth century Milton's writing made use of popular Renaissance conventions in his day such as the style of poetry called an epic Moreover his work's style and mannerisms mimicked the grammatical structure of Latin and gave it a more complex and classic sound This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Milton's classic work helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons they have stood the literary test of time Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains Introductions to the Author and the Work Character Summaries Plot Guides Section and Chapter Overviews Test Essay and Study Q As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature exploring characters critical commentary historical background plots and themes This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research *A Study Guide for John Milton's Paradise Lost* Cengage Learning Gale, 2015 **John Milton's Paradise Lost** Margaret Kean, 2013-12-02 John Milton's epic poem Paradise Lost 1667 is a literary landmark His reworking of Biblical tales of the loss of Eden constitutes not only a gripping literary work but a significant musing on fundamental human concerns ranging from freedom and fate to conscience and consciousness Designed for students new to Milton's complex lengthy work this sourcebook outlines the often unfamiliar contexts of seventeenth century England which are so crucial to Paradise Lost completes the contextual study with a chronology and reprinted documents from the period examines and reprints a broad range of responses to the poem from early reactions to recent criticism reprints the most frequently studied passages of the poem along with extensive commentary and annotation of unfamiliar or significant terms used in Milton's work provides cross references between the textual contextual and critical sections of the sourcebook to show how all the materials can be called upon in an individual reader's encounter with the text suggests further reading for those facing the huge array of critical work on the poem With an emphasis on enjoying as well as understanding what can be a somewhat daunting work this sourcebook will be a welcome resource for anyone new to Paradise Lost Paradise Lost (SparkNotes Literature Guide) SparkNotes, 2014-08-12 Paradise Lost SparkNotes Literature Guide by John Milton Making the reading experience fun Created by Harvard students for students everywhere SparkNotes is a new breed of study guide smarter better faster Geared to what today's students need to know SparkNotes provides Chapter by chapter analysis Explanations of key themes motifs and symbols A review quiz and essay topics Lively and accessible these guides are perfect for late night studying and writing papers Pennant Key-indexed Study Guide to John Milton's Paradise Lost John Thomas

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