INFERNAL FALL

never lose hope

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Infernal Fall Discussion Questions Answers



1. What evidence in the text shows that Daniel was a soldier?

There are several places. He would have reenlisted in the military if not for Kristine. He refers to his boots looking different than what he wore in the military. His friend was a captain. Shadows of trees camouflaged Kristine's face.

2. Why would Kristine compare Daniel to Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde?

Kristine has seen his good side, but on more than one occasion, Daniel has shown her, and her friends, that he will fight. It seems to happen more often when he drinks. Dr. Jekyll turned into Mr. Hyde when he drank his potion.

3. List some negative and positive characteristics we see in Daniel? Explain reasoning in small groups.

Positive: Driven, Truthful, Brave, Loyal, Curious Negative: Angry, Violent, Impulsive, Ashamed,

4. One allegorical element in this chapter is that Daniel leaves the path and heads into the dark cave. What is the author saying about Daniel?

Daniel is leaving the path that would lead him to the top of the mountain (top of the world), into a dark place. His curiosity and impulsive nature has led him astray. Note that Kristine follows him, so he has led her off the path as well, but while Daniel falls deeper into darkness, Kristine is still able to make it back to the path.

5. What draws Daniel away from the path?

A shining flashing light. It seems to have been a stone.

6. What is etched on the stone that Daniel finds in the cave?

A spiraling shape that winds 8 times to a circle at the very center.

7. Given the shape of the stone and what is etched on it, what does the stone look like and what does that represent?

The stone is shaped like an almond and has a spiral on one side. It looks like an eye. Eyes are extremely symbolic. If you are paying attention to someone you are usually looking at their face with your own eyes. If you are conversing with them you often are making eye contact with one another. Also there is an association with the "all seeing eye" and the "evil eye". In ancient times, people would carry an evil eye talisman for protection. (Note: By the end of this novel the stone will be a blank slate. Ultimately, the stone is a physical representation of Daniel's hope.)

8. What does the spiral on the stone represent?

A spiral can be associated with hypnotism and eternity. A tunnel that pulls you deeper or takes you from one place to another.

9. How does the narrator show Daniel's love for Kristine as he's clinging to the root in the hole?

He looks up to her. He wants to "take her hand" if he can get close enough. She is his freedom. He wanted to hear her say, "I love you."

10. As Daniel falls into the pit, the narrator states "Terror blinding his reason, he clung to hope." What does that mean?

He is too afraid to think. He knows he's in imminent danger and most likely will not survive. All he had left was to hope that somehow he could survive this fall.

11. In Dante's Inferno, there is a famous line, "All hope abandon, ye who enter here." It is the last line stated in a long inscription that is "Written upon the summit of a gate." Daniel is in a horrible situation as he's falling into a deep dark pit, what good would it do him to "cling" to hope?

If he has no hope. he completely gives up. He no longer tries to survive this situation and lets it destroy him.



1. When Daniel is able to escape the avalanche, he comes to an opening and finds himself in a very different place. Describe some of the things he sees.

It looks like a vast cavern. The sky has cracks. It's red. There is a lot of smoke. The mountain is on fire. The horizon appears to be flat.

2. Daniel has two goals at this point. What are they?

Get off the mountain. Find a way back to civilization and Kristine.

3. Charles has a particular job. What is that job?

Charles is a soul harvester.

4. What is Charles wearing and what does he keep with him?

He wears a frock coat, a vest, pants, necktie, and bowler hat. He carries a pocket watch.

5. The Dishonorable Judge Baxter has a nickname. What is it and why do they call him that?

He is Baxter the Brittle because his bones break easily.

6. What is Charles's nickname. Why do they call him that?

He is Heartless Charles because he literally ripped out his heart.

7. Though Charles enjoys breathing in smoke, he isn't too happy about heading to the valley to retrieve "only one soul". Why do you think he'd be upset about this?

Charles is very prideful. He feels he is better than everyone in Limbo. Having to go about his usual task for only one soul is beneath him. He usually gathers dozens or so.

8. What happens when Charles's watch indicates that it is 6:30?

Souls fall out of the mountain and into the valley.

9. Charles has collected dead souls from the valley for decades, what occurs differently this time?

The person who falls into hell this time isn't dead. Charles calls him "undead".

10. How does Charles know that Daniel is undead?

Charles smells Daniel's sweat.

11. Oftentimes, in pop culture, the term "undead" is used to describe a fictional being that is dead but still living. Here it is used differently to describe Daniel who is still alive. Why?

Note the character who uses this term is a demon. He still wants to see himself as greater than others. In a way, he calls Daniel "undead" as a way of seeing him less than what he is. Also, Daniel is not in the land of the living but in the land of the dead and is not like those who abide there.

12. Charles speaks to another entity on the mountain. What is this entity and why is he there?

Beau is a shadow-man who has entered Hell to save Daniel. He wasn't sent by God or anyone else. He chose to come on his own accord.

13. What happens to Beau when he enters into Hell?

Beau takes on a physical appearance as he sheds his shadowy body.

14. What does Beau bring into Hell with him?

A ram's horn that has special powers and the keystone.

15. What is special about these two items and how can they be of use to him in Hell?

The horn healed Beau's injuries so it may heal Daniel. It also warded off the fire. The keystone is the stone that Daniel found. We don't know what sort of magic it has but it did light up in Daniel's fist. It can at least act as a light.

16. In Dante's Inferno, Dante the Pilgrim is led through the Inferno by his favorite poet, Virgil. He trusts Virgil to get him through it. Should Daniel trust Charles and/or Beau? Why or why not? Who is ultimately responsible for Daniel's safe return back to Earth?

Daniel can't trust Charles, but he can trust Beau. Ultimately, Daniel is responsible for his own safe return. This is a form of dramatic irony though. We know who Daniel can trust, but he doesn't know.



1. What happens when Daniel stamps on his reflection?

It stirs up embers and they burn him.

2. Why does Daniel stamp on his reflection?

His silhouette reminded him of his father.

3. What does Daniel think about Charles?

He thinks Charles has horrible breath and that he is odd.

4. Charles doesn't tell Daniel that he is in Hell, but he hints at it by stating he is on "the southern side". How is Charles' dishonesty working to his advantage? How may it help him in the future?

Charles has all the answers and knowledge can be a powerful weapon against others. By lying to Daniel, Charles will be able to manipulate and trick him into heading deeper into Hell rather than trying to head back up the mountain.

5. In this situation, Daniel knows nothing about where he is, while Charles has all the knowledge. Think of a time when you had to rely on strangers to help you and write about it. Did you trust the strangers? Would you have trusted Charles if you were Daniel?

Share stories. Remember to make stories more interesting include setting, emotions, and characters. Not just names and ages but bring out the person's character by highlighting their unique characteristics and behavior. This shouldn't be a sentence long exercise. Feel free to make up one if you can't think of a particular situation.

6. What do we learn about Charles's description that we didn't learn in the previous chapter? Why didn't the author tell us about this in the previous chapter?

Charles's eyes are like reptilian. In the previous chapter, we followed Charles from his own perspective. Charles can't see his own eyes. Although he is vain, there were no mirrors around for him to admire himself.

7. What happened to Charles when he put Daniel to sleep?

He felt the presence of the Holy Spirit enter into him. It caused him to remember his grandmother.

8. Pop Culture: Sci Fi fun tidbit question! What character in science fiction was able to make people pass out with a simple touch?

Live long and prosper, Spock!

9. What is the spirit that Charles believes is inside Daniel?

The Holy Spirit

10. Why is Beau so clumsy?

Beau isn't used to walking within a body anymore. He was a disembodied spirit, a shadow-man.

11. How does Charles cause Beau to doubt his plan to take Daniel back up the mountain?

Beau realized that he was having trouble navigating the land. Heading up the mountain would be harder than he anticipated. He didn't realize how hard it was to navigate in the flesh. He also seems to have a poor self esteem. Confident people are very good at manipulating people who lack understanding and experience. (Con-man = Confidence man)

12. How does Charles's knowledge of Hell give him an advantage over Daniel and Beau?

He knows how to get around the territory. He knows where everything is. He knows the truth. Daniel and Beau are ignorant of it all. This gives Charles the upper-hand in what they should do and where they should go. In a sense, his knowledge of Limbo has put him in charge.

13. Why does Charles feel a need to get moving when he sees his watch starting to near the 12 o'clock position?

When the hands of his watch reach 12, he will be reported for not brining Daniel to be judged.

14. Charles said, "Demons tell the truth when it suits their purpose." What are some moments when Charles is telling the truth?

He told the truth about the nearby town of Grayton. He doesn't want to take Daniel to the judge but to Satan. There are other examples.

15. Pop Culture question: Sometimes in media we see someone struggling with a decision and a demon will pop up on one shoulder and an angel will pop up on the other. They'll each try to influence the decision maker. Soon Daniel will wake up and have to decide who to listen to. Who do you think he'll listen to in this situation and why?

I already know the answer. This is an inference builder. As the author I wanted Beau to be seen as less believable than Charles.

Chapter Four

1. Why does Daniel taste something bitter on his tongue?

The medicine from the horn was bitter.

2. Daniel no longer feels injured. How does he rationalize this?

He believes he wasn't as hurt as he thought he was. Also he thinks it could be adrenaline.

3. How does telling the truth work against Beau in this situation?

The truth is less believable sometimes. To Daniel, and most people I would think, it seems absolutely unlikely that one could fall into Hell and still be alive.

4. Who will Charles need to meet when he gets to Grayton?

He will need to meet with the king.

5. Daniel didn't question Charles about his strange attire earlier. Why would he choose to ask him about it at this point?

This can be interpreted a number of ways. I chose to leave it up to the reader to determine why, but here's my answer. Daniel asked the question for two reasons. He is a bit of a rebel. Charles was dictating everything: the speed, direction, and destination. This was him getting some control. Also, he was helping Beau who was struggling to keep up.

6. Charles accidently mentioned his grandmother in this chapter. What caused him to think of his grandmother in the previous chapter. What does this foreshadow? Do you have any predictions of what may happen to Charles on their long journey?

The spirit he felt from Daniel, The Holy Spirit, brought back the memory of his grandmother. It may mean that Charles will experience more memories of his grandmother. Because he cared about his grandmother, he will become more sentimental which may be good for Daniel and Beau.

7. How was Beau able to carry the keystone and horn when he was a shadow?

It was part of the shadow world. He can interact with the shadow world but not the real, living world.

8. Would seeing the keystone and hearing Beau's explanation changed your mind if you were Daniel? Why wasn't Beau's explanation sufficient at this point?

This is an opinion piece. I personally would not have changed my mind so easily. I believe his explanation was still too unbelievable to Daniel.

9. Literary Easter Egg: Remembering C.S. Lewis's The Great Divorce: How is the town of Grayton similar to the grey town mentioned in The Great Divorce. Considering this, what may Daniel, Beau, and Charles find in town besides a hospital?

Be sure to read a little from The Great Divorce to enjoy this question. This of course is the bus stop and the constant raining. It's a miserable setting in a relatively modern city. This doesn't stray far from Dante's Limbo, which is why I included it. Dante's Limbo was similar to a city in his time.

Chapter Five

1. Describe the vagrant that Beau interrogates at the end of the alley. Quote the line and page.

The answer starts on page 48 but more details can be pulled from page 49. The vagrant is an elderly man who is sobbing and shielding his face. He is soaking wet. His skin is bruised, gray, wrinkled and swollen.

2. At this point, we know that Charles is the demon, and Beau is set on saving Daniel. We the readers should find Beau to be morally superior to Charles. Why do you think Beau physically assaulted the vagrant in the alley?

This is an opinion question that can be answered with a single sentence but strive to have students write more by explaining their answer especially if they are sticking with a single adjective as a response. For example: Rather than state "He assaulted the man in the alley because he is frightened." Ask them to explain. Here's a possible expansion of this sentence.

Beau is in Hell and terribly frightened for himself and Daniel. A demon who he doesn't trust has already tricked Daniel into heading deeper. Beau likely trusts no one and is afraid that the longer they stay in Hell the likelier it will be that they'll be captured or forced to stay.

3. How many people are standing at the bus stop? There could have been any number of passengers at the bus stop. Why this number?

There are seven people at the bus stop. Numbers can have meanings especially in literature and considering that this is Hell these seven people represent the seven deadly sins. If you feel students are not familiar with the seven deadly sins, have them research it in groups or as a class. Be sure the students understand the difference between good and bad sources.

4. How is Charles able to show his authority over citizens of Grayton?

Charles holds up with watch like a police badge. Also, it is likely that they recognize Charles. Remember he harvests souls and many people go to the soul trials.

5. What are references to C.S. Lewis's The Great Divorce, in this chapter?

There is the bus stop and the constant raining.

6. Sensitive Question: When asked about what devastated the streets of Grayton, Charles said it was a protest that was "mostly peaceful". Is it deceptive to describe a protest that left such damage as "mostly peaceful? Why or why not? What is the author's opinion on this given that Charles is the one who says that the protest was mostly peaceful?

In 2020, a news report on CNN took place in front of a business that was set on fire. The network described this protest as mostby peaceful, which I find cleverly deceptive. CNN isn't the only network who have described an event to have it fit into the narrative they want it to fit. I chose to use "mostly peaceful" since it did describe a protest and Charles would want it to fit into his narrative to make Grayton seem more like Daniel's world rather than Dante's.

7. When Daniel says that he hopes for good news, Charles backs away looking at Daniel's chest. What is Charles thinking at this moment and why doesn't the author mention it at this time?

We are in Daniel's perspective at this point, and this is a 3^{nd} person limited POV, so we can't get into Charles's thoughts, but we have been in Charles's perspective before and we know that he senses that the Holy Spirit is within Daniel. The mention of "Good News" caused Charles to think of the Biblical Good News. (The Gospels = The Good News = The Message that saves.) This would be averse to what Charles wants. His greatest fear is to lose Daniel now.

8. Daniel handles the horn for the first time. What does he see when he looks through it?

It's brown and wet from rain. There's the leather strap going through it.

9. What happens when you blow the horn?

The blowing of the horn frightens demons away.

10. Why does Charles say "Pitiful" when the guard behind the glass hangs up the phone? What does this tell us about the guard?

It is obvious to Charles that whoever spoke to the guard over the phone had hung up, but the guard wanted to create the appearance that he had a special relationship with whoever did call. This shows that the guard wants to appear important and probably doesn't feel like he is important. He has a low self-esteem and seeks the approval from others, rather than accepting himself for who he is. (I may have to write a story for him some day.)

11. Why does the king prefer solitude?

We learn that the king isn't an ancient demon. He is actually a man. This means that other people in Limbo may be emboldened to steal power away from him.

12. What does Charles discover about the king that offers him leverage?

The king experiences the second death in front of Charles.

13. Before the king experiences the "second death", he says "Hand me your pocketwa-wa…" How is this foreshadowing?

"Wa-Wa" is how a child may as for water. The king is about to throw up boiling water.

14. The King of Grayton is a reference to a Greek mythological character who is mentioned in Dante's Inferno. Who is this character and what are some clues we find in the text for this.

This is the King Minos. His throne has bullhorns on it. His pen wraps around his fingers like a snake (a snake wraps around him in Dante's Inferno). His death in mythology is by boiling water.

Chapter Six

1. Beau said, "Demons ran away from the sounding of the horn" It stirred a "frail memory" in Beau. What was that memory and how would that sentence rekindle it?

He was chasing after someone in this memory, which means someone was "running away".

2. Beau used to be a shadow. What was he before he was a shadow?

Beau used to be a man until he died. However he didn't enter Heaven or Hell. Instead, he became a shadow.

3. According to Beau, what must Daniel do to escape Hell?

Daniel needs to get right with God.

4. What are some things we learn about Daniel in this chapter. Provide textual evidence?

We learn what he did to his father. That he isn't religious. He loves Kristine. How he got the scar on his neck in Iraq. Etc.

5. Daniel revealed that he came home drunk, pushed his father over a table, and left. He heard his father say, "Just go then." What would have been a more appropriate action for Daniel to take? Why would his father say, "Just go then."?

At that point, the best thing Daniel could do would be to apologize. It would've been hard considering the heat of the moment, but sometimes taking a deep breath can help settle down the emotions. His father is angry and pained which is why he told his son to leave. While it would be awkward to remain in that setting, driving away drunk late at night is the worst answer although it may have seemed like the most logical one. Daniel should've went to his room and worked on healing the fractured relationship with his father. His father would need to work on that as well. Their anger got the best of them in this situation.

6. Have you ever had an argument with a friend or family member that severed the relationship? Were you ever able to work things out? Would you be willing to work things out? Why or why not? If you can't think of a situation, use a friendship or family relationship problem from a movie, tv show, or book.

No right or wrong answers here. Give students time to reflect and write. This can be a simple writing prompt or an essay if you want.

7. We learn more about how Kristine has inspired Daniel to put his anger in check with two simple words. What are those words and what does it mean?

Choose Life means that he can choose to let things live or die. That means he can embrace his anger at something or someone or he can forgive.

8. When Charles arrives, they head to an elevator where the officer types in "0010" into a keypad. Daniel believed this meant that they would be heading to the 10th floor but in actuality it was to go to the Second Hell. How does "0010" represent the Second Hell?

This is binary. In binary 10 equals to 2. 11 equals 3. 110 equals 4. . .

9. Why would Charles react strangely when Beau says, "You're human."

Charles considers himself as a demon. He thought he was only masquerading as a man to lure Daniel down into Hell, but doing so had consequences. A demon wouldn't flinch at the sight of a man. Not in this setting, especially when things are going according to

plan. Charles showed a little bit of humanity when he flinched.

10. How does the elevator take them to the second Hell?

It shoots down an elevator shaft and into the sky of a world below it.

11. When the elevator crashed, Daniel is unconscious. He is in a dark place, maybe somewhere in his mind. He hears a voice. Who is it that speaks to him?

Azrael

12. How does Beau revive Daniel?

He uses the horn again.

13. What does Daniel see when he looks out the elevator car's trapdoor? Use textual evidence.

Pg 75. Bodies writhed in a vast barren desert. Swarms of flies dashed about aimlessly. Along the horizon, reddish-black clouds rolled counterclockwise through a bright tan sky.

14. State the similarities and differences between this version of Lust and Dante's. You can find free translations to Dante's Inferno at this website (Inferno 5 – Digital Dante (columbia.edu))

The most notable similarity is that people in lust are ravaged by an endless hurricane. Differences include flies in Infernal Fall and not in Dante's Inferno. Also it is dark in Dante's, while the sky is tan in Infernal Fall.

15. Who is Joseph, and what do we know about him through the text?

Joseph is the man they pulled into the elevator car. He is stuck in Lust and therefore has been blown about by the winds since he's been there. His body is basically a bag of bones.

16. What can we infer about Joseph's past?

Joseph was someone who performed many acts of Lust. (Feel free to expand on this. As the author I don't want to give too much.)

17. What information would Daniel want to learn from Joseph?

He will want to know if there is a way out of the desert.

18. Do you believe that Daniel can trust Joseph? Why or why not?

This is an opinion piece. My opinion is mixed. He can trust Joseph to be honest about basic information such as the reality of Lust, the geography of this Hell, but Joseph will likely not tell him the truth about personal things. He may only tell half-truths.



1. What is "free love"?

Free Love is the idea or practice of having sexual relations according to choice, without being restricted by marriage or long-term relationships.

2. Is "free love" the same as "love"? Explain your answer.

You may want to define love and compare the definitions, but these two things are different. For example "Love" isn't rooted in sexual relations

3. What is the author's opinion on "free love"? What evidence supports your claim?

I am not an advocate of free love. I think it's a sad practice. Evidence to support this is that I have a character who practiced free love in the second circle of Dante's Inferno. Free love is detrimental to humankind because even though it is consensual, it is selfish because the child, should one be born, is never considered. It focuses on the pleasure of those focused on a sexual encounter rather than the love as described in First Corinthians.

4. Does Joseph take any responsibility for his past mistakes? If not, does he blame anyone else for his downfall?

Joseph doesn't take responsibility for his past mistakes. He blames the woman he got pregnant. He still believes that "free love" is real love.

5. When Charles states "I'm coming, like it or not.", Daniel remembers his dream. Why would that statement trigger his memory? Does the buzzing of the flies remind him of his dream at all?

Azrael said he was coming in his dream. Also, the voice of Azrael was buzzing.

6. In this chapter, Daniel accepts that he is in Hell. How does he react to this? Provide textual evidence.

He is feeling a lot of things. Disbelief, fear, confusion, and anger. Evidence can be found from pages 80-83

7. Write about a time when you realized you were in a horrible situation. At that moment, did you feel hopeless? Why or why not? Did you get through it or are you still dealing with this situation? If students do not want to write about their own experience allow them to write about another character in literature other than Daniel of course.

Students can share these if they like.

8. Who are the two ancient demons who show up in this chapter?

Asmodeus and Lilith

9. Why did the demons banish Charles, Beau, and Daniel from Lust?

They didn't belong in Lust. Also, Daniel refused to eat their fruit; in other words, he wouldn't partake in the sin of Lust. They also didn't want Azrael entering their world.

10. Who is Azrael?

At this point in the story, he is considered the Angel of Death. Have students research it in groups for a brief period if possible. Have them note the sources they used and state why they believe that source is trustworthy or not.

Chapter Eight

1. What caused Beau to have a vision where he wakes up in a field?

Lilith's kiss. Note that from Daniel's perspective he saw Beau's head become like a shadow. From Beau's perspective, the world tore into shreds and there was a hot pain that rolled over him, and suddenly he was somewhere else.

2. What is Cerberus? How is it depicted in Greek mythology?

Cerberus is a large mythological creature who is often depicted as having three heads and a snake's tail.

3. Why would Charles, Beau, and Daniel need to be concerned about Cerberus?

It would likely want to eat them, especially Daniel.

4. What plan do they come up with to get by Cerberus?

They soak Charles's ruined jacket in the horn's mead.

5. Does the plan work? Did anything happen that wasn't expected?

The plan worked but not quite as planned. Cerberus did go after the coat but one snake went after them. Daniel was supposed to blow the horn but he lost it. Charles blew the horn instead.

Chapter Nine

1. What memories occur to Charles in this chapter? What stirred this memory?

A lady in the mud reminded him of his grandmother asking him if he'd like her to sing another hymn? The only reason he even remembers his grandmother is because the Holy Spirit ignited the memory when Charles touched Daniel's shoulder in Limbo. This means that the Holy Spirit did spread to Charles.

2. Who does Daniel wake up using the horn? Why does he do this?

Daniel wakes up Holly Fairchild because he doesn't believe that given the choice to stay or flee from this place that anyone would choose to stay.

3. Why are Beau and Daniel arguing at the start of the chapter?

Daniel wants to get away from Charles, but Beau believes they need to stick with him.

4. What is Beau's theory on why Daniel is in Hell?

Daniel's soul isn't right with God; otherwise, he would have never entered Hell.

5. Who are the ladies of Gluttony and why are they significant to the story?

The elderly lady who brought on Charles's memory of his grandmother and Holly Fairchild. The elderly lady affected Charles's emotions and made him cry. The moment with Holly affected Daniel because he restrained his anger when she struck him, and he realized that not everyone would be willing to give up on their sins. Beau was affected to an extent as well. He noticed that Joseph from Lust and Holly were both selfish and blamed others for their problems, which made him less empathetic to those stuck in Hell.

6. Gluttony is in a canyon. Describe it. What is the weather like? The terrain? Where does it end? What will Beau, Daniel, and Charles need to do in order to reach Greed?

The canyon is a large circular trench. There is a thick thundercloud over it that pours a brown mist. The mud is less dense in the middle of the canyon. The ground hardens near the innermost part of the canyon. They need to reach the innermost cliff and climb it to reach Greed.



1. What happened when Holly slapped Daniel, and why would that bother Charles?

Although Charles found it amusing at first, when Daniel didn't react and walked away, he sensed the Holy Spirit swell within Daniel. He thought it would weaken but it only grew stronger. A good follow up question is why would it grow stronger. My answer to that is that Daniel didn't give in to his anger. He didn't lash out. He walked away. He chose life.

2. Another memory occurs to Charles. Who is with him? What was his nickname?

Again, he is with his grandmother. This moment is more details as if his memories are becoming stronger at this point. He found out that his nickname used to be Chip.

3. Why would Beau ask Daniel if he believed his father was in Gluttony? What is his motive?

This is an opinion-based question, but the answers should align with Beau trying to help Daniel find a pathway to reconciling with God. One of Daniel's issues is that he ran away from home and cut his parents from his life entirely. Beau knew that Daniel's father was in AA and hadn't drank in years, so he is reminding Daniel of his father's past sins and how his father overcame them. If his father can overcome them, then maybe Daniel can as well. Maybe they can both reconcile and forgive each other.

4. Charles reveals things about his past to Beau and Daniel. What does he reveal, and why would he reveal such information? (Hint: Unbeknownst to any of them, something is affecting Charles.)

Yes the Holy Spirit is working here, but Charles isn't affected by it this time. He remembers the preacher from his grandmother's church. The preacher was a drunk, who Charles disliked and hoped was in Gluttony.

5. Charles details what they can expect in Greed. Who are the squanders and the hoarders? Why would they be at war?

Both of these types are greedy. Squanderers waste their money. The hoarders sit on theirs. They do this out of selfishness. They're not interested in sharing anything they have. They would be at war because they are both after rocks in this Hell. The squanders will waste theirs and the hoarders would keep theirs. So when there's no rocks that are freely available, the squanderers will go after what the hoarders have kept to themselves.

6. Why is Charles reluctant to hide his watch?

Charles is really tied to his watch. It is his prized possession. It gives him comfort when he's holding it. He clicks it open and snaps it shut because it pleases him. In a sense, it is a small sin of Charles's. He's a bit of a hoarder himself although his greatest sin is thievery.

7. Who does Beau hear after he scales the cliff? What instructions are given to him? Should he trust this spirit? Why or why not?

He hears the spirit, Fortuna. Fortuna tells him to go straight to Stygian lake to find her. As far as trusting her that's an opinion. I personally wouldn't trust her but I'm not one to gamble.

Chapter Eleven

1. Daniel has a vision of Azrael. What does he learn? What question stirs when he sees Kristine in the vision?

Azrael has jumped into Hell and he's moving very fast. He see's that Kristine is crying and he wonders why Azrael would want him to see that.

2. Who is Fortuna and why would she appear now?

Fortuna is the Greek goddess of fortune. Greed is a place where'd we likely find her because people who seek fortune are seeking it out of selfishness. They are feeding their greed. That doesn't necessarily mean that this goddess is evil. People who are fortunate are not necessarily bad. Oftentimes, they'll share.

3. Pop culture question: Each weeknight, millions of people watch Wheel of Fortune. Research where the wheel of fortune comes from. Does it relate to Fortuna? If so, state how.

Yes, the wheel of fortune is often depicted with Fortuna. Have some fun with this. Students can draw a picture. Play a game of wheel of fortune yourself with puzzles that are related to vocabulary words from any subject they're studying. Break everyone up into groups to do this. Groups of four. Three players and one host. Maybe after the games ask the students how they felt about winning and losing.

4. Daniel, Beau, and Charles come across a group of men on their way to Greed. Describe these men. Are they hoarders or squanderers?

These guys are elderly hoarders. They're tired and weak. They would do no good in a battle.

5. Who is Mammon?

Feel free to research this. It's a demon attached to money. He is depicted as a man in Infernal Fall who makes sense to the hoarders.

6. Who is Plutus?

Research this too. Plutus is a Greek mythological creature who appears in Dante's Inferno in Greed. The personification of Wealth. He is depicted as a dog in Infernal Fall. Dogs oftentimes steal items and gobble up their food faster than they need to (at least my dog does. Yes, I do love my Sadie). Also, Pluto is a Disney dog. I figured the Squanderers could relate to this.

7. In Infernal Fall, Mammon and Plutus are the same being. How are they one in the same? Is it comparable to a werewolf? State your reasoning.

Mammon transforms into Plutus the same way a man may transform into a werewolf.

8. In Dante's Inferno, Plutus says, "Pape Satàn, pape Satàn aleppe!" This is considered untranslatable, but there are theories on what it may mean? After researching this, state why the author of Infernal Fall would have chosen "Rah Sah Tan Rah Sah Tan Con que ror Con que ror!" as Plutus's words?

I broke it up to make it sound more like a dog because if a dog could talk it very well may be broken up and hard to translate. Rah is just a cheer. Sah Tan is Satan when combined. Con que ror is conqueror. So Plutus is cheering and praising Satan here. Why? Because Plutus sees, Charles, Daniel, and Beau as a special offering. Rather than giving thanks to God, it gives it to Satan instead. (Bad Dog!) 9. How does Charles, Beau, and Daniel get through the warring mob?

Something fortunate happens. Someone threw a rock which struck the man carrying a sack of marble. That took the attention of most of the squanderers and hoarders. Those that came after Charles, Beau, and Daniel were no match. They were weak, frail, and so light that they were easily pushed and tossed aside.

10. Charles has another vision of his past. Where is he in this memory? What causes him to remember this? Does he remember his mother's name?

He is in front of his mother's grave. The name on the tombstone is Elaine Love Thorne. He sees this after Daniel is flung back into him.

11. What page is Fortuna described? Use this to create a picture of Fortuna.

Page 140

12. What must Beau give up in order to receive Fortuna's help? Why can't the horn go beyond the Isle of Greed? What does he receive after giving up the horn

He has to give up the horn. The horn will not go beyond the isle of Greed because it is drawn to Greed itself. The reason why it is drawn to Greed is that it provides in abundance. It is a treasure that provides whatever is needed. In Greed, people will want more rocks. It'll enhance their suffering. In deeper hells it would be too much of a blessing.

13. How does Daniel feel about the loss of the horn?

Daniel isn't trusting Fortuna. The horn has healed him several times. It's given him a reprieve from the stench of Hell as well.

Chapter Twelve

1. How are rings significant to a marriage? What does Daniel think about the ring he is carrying?

This is worth some research. They are a symbol of love. The shape is a circle which is a symbol of eternity. We place them on our ring finger because it is more in-line with our hearts. It is the physical representation of the oath the husband and wife make to one another. Daniel thinks highly of the ring. It is his hope. He wants Kristine to marry him. He thinks they are more than just jewelry and can give people the power to overcome the temptation to commit adultery.

2. Who killed Phlegyas? Why are the arrowheads important to him now?

Apollo killed Phlegyas with those arrowheads, so Phlegyas believes that having them will give him some kind of power.

3. Through this chapter Daniel becomes more and more irritated. Why?

Daniel's biggest issue is that he's a hot head. They are traveling through Wrath which is Stygian Lake. I view Stygian Lake as a massive moat that surrounds the City of Dis. Each time Daniel breaths in the steam rising from the lake it fuels his rage.

4. Where is Phlegyas taking Daniel, Beau, and Charles? Why doesn't he just kill them?

He is taking them to the shores of Dis, and he doesn't want to kill them because he wants the arrowheads.

5. As Daniel hands over his arrowhead, Phlegyas attacks him. How does he get away?

He says that Azrael is coming after him. Phlegyas, who is full of wrath himself, has a vendetta against Azrael. He didn't like hearing Daniel talk about how the Ancient demons lost to Heavenly angels. Azrael is an angel. Phlegyas hates them more than he hates Daniel.

6. Charles lost his jacket in an earlier chapter. What does he lose in this chapter?

His tie. His tie wasn't ruined. He just decided he didn't want to wear it.

7. How does Charles physically change? Do you feel that these changes will have consequences for Charles? Explain your answer.

Charles's eyes are no longer reptilian. They are human eyes and they look like his mothers. His grandmother would have told him that. As far as consequences go, that is an opinion but students should use inference. Charles is allowing the Holy Spirit back in while they're heading deeper into Hell. Charles is a human who took on the role of a demon. They'll run into more demons along the way. He used to be in the 7th ditch of the Malebolge and they haven't gotten there yet. Charles isn't worried about it yet, but these changes will likely cause him grief when he reenters the Malebolge.



1. Who are in the catacombs?

Members of the SS.

2. Who are the Furies?

These are creatures from Greek mythology. They are great female warriors.

3. Why are no demons roaming the parapets?

Turns out they are focused on bringing in souls who have just arrived. They are along the bridge that stretches over Stygian Lake.

4. In Dante's Inferno, Virgil and Dante are denied entry by the Furies, but an angel intervenes and allows them to continue into the city of Dis. How is this similar to how Charles, Daniel, and Beau enter into Dis.

An angel intervenes in Infernal Fall as well.

5. What is Heresy?

(the act of having) an opinion or belief that is the opposite of or against what is the official or popular opinion, or an action that shows that you have no respect for the official opinion: provided by the Cambridge Dictionary.

6. Describe what Daniel sees when he enters into the city. Note the page where the textual evidence is located.

On page 161, there are countless fiery pits. Farther ahead, there are stone buildings that are smoking. A few of the escaped marchers are running about aimlessly.

7. A heretic calls Daniel a particular kind of sinner. What is he called? Do you know why?

He calls Daniel a murderer and it's not clear why. Use inference to create a hypothesis. We do know that Daniel is drawn to anger. These heretics claim to see the future. It's possible that Daniel may commit a murder in the future. Also, Jesus made a comparison between anger and murder. Feel free to discuss that biblical passage.

8. What happens to Daniel at the end of the chapter? Why?

Daniel passes out on account of the smoke. Smoke Inhalation.

Chapter Fourteen

1. How does Charles, Beau, and Daniel reach the seventh hell?

They drop into a pit that is at the very center of Dis.

2. What do they witness when they find the subterranean river of blood?

There is a brawl taking place in the river. The demons rallied them to fight each other offering the winner a few more yards to travel downstream. Note: they lied about how far they'd take them.

3. How does Stygian Lake compare and contrast to this first chamber of violence? How do both environments affect Daniel's mood?

Wrath and Violence go hand in hand. But you don't necessary need to be a wrathful person to be violent. The sinners of wrath and the sinners of violence against man are in liquid. One is in boiling water. The other is in boiling blood. One is a river. The other is a lake. One is on the surface. The other is underground. One has demons roaming about. The other one doesn't. The heat and stench exacerbates Daniel's rage.

4. Who is Azazel and what does he want to take from Daniel?

Feel free to research Azazel. Azazel is one of Satan's generals. He wants to make sure the Holy Spirit leaves Daniel.

5. How do they escape Azazel?

Beau uses the keystone. Something about its light repels Azazel.

Chapter Fifteen

1. How does the keystone help them as they follow the subterranean river to the next chamber of Violence?

The keystone repels other demons.

2. As they near the end, they come across a ceremony. What is the ceremony and who is presiding over it?

Abaddon is granting horns to the souls who have made it to the end of the river.

3. How does Charles, Daniel, and Beau get past the demons in this chapter?

Charles and Beau have to fight their way past these demons. These demons are not ancient demons. They are souls that came out of the river and have taken on the role of demons. They are just as weak as those in Greed but more willing to act out violently. Charles and Beau are able to escape with Daniel, who is unconscious again.

4. When they reach the second chamber of Violence, how are they healed?

It is cold in the second chamber of violence. In all realms of Hell, the cold heals all wounds.

5. Why is Daniel feeling more hopeless?

He feels that the Holy Spirit has left him. Azazel hurt him badly. His anger used to be a powerful tool for him. His ability to fight was a strength. None of that helped him. Also, he is getting deeper into Hell. Nothing good is happening. All he sees is suffering and damnation.

6. Charles lost his coat, necktie, and vest. He's lost yet another item. What is it? Why do you think this character is losing his clothes? Is there any hidden meaning to this? What does it foreshadow? What else could Charles lose?

He lost his bowler hat. There's an old saying about peeling back an onion. Also there is shedding skin. Charles had a thick skin. He considered himself a demon to hide what he truly was. The longer he's mingled with Daniel, the more he's allowed himself to be his true self. It seems that Charles will likely lose his watch. Maybe his shoes. He could lose it all and be completely humiliated.

7. What does Charles regain in this chapter?

Charles regains his heart.



1. Why does the words "Just go then", stick in Daniel's head? Why would he think of it as a question? Why does it bother him so much?

The last thing his father said to him was "Just go then". It's a simple phrase that made Daniel even angrier in the moment he ran away from home. But over time, a simple phrase like this can stick with a person. When someone says something that hurts you or helps you, it sticks (yes, like glue). As we get older we gain more perspective. For Daniel, "Just go then" becomes less of a command and more of a question because deep down he wants to reconcile with his father. Should he keep going? Should he choose to let the relationship he had with his father die? Should he choose life?

2. What are the trees in the second chamber of violence?

The trees are people.

3. Who does Daniel meet in this chapter? Why is this person in the second chamber of violence?

Daniel meets Captain Jones. Captain Jones killed his brother and himself in front of his wife and child.

4. What does the name "Azrael" mean?

One whom God Helps. You will see more translations on the Internet.

5. If you were Daniel, would you continue or head back to find Azrael at this point? Why or why not?

I'd feel like it would be impossible to find Azrael in Hell. I'd promise myself that if I came across him again, I'd go to him. I'm trusting an angel more than anybody at this point, even Beau and Charles.

6. Recall: Charles is a demon and knew about Azrael. He is really good at making something that is good look like something that is evil. Considering this, how is the name of Azrael tied to the Angel of Death. Why is it easy to see that as evil? How is it not evil?

This can be written as an opinion piece. Death is often depicted as a scary thing. Oftentimes, it's thought of as a monster. I feel that the Angel of Death comes to save us from the suffering and fear of passing on.

7. What are the creatures they find in this second chamber of violence? Describe them.

Harpies. They are female birds with human faces.

8. What small land feature do they find that will lead them to the third chamber of violence.

A small red stream.



1. Why don't those who are stuck in the third chamber of violence flee to the less horrible second chamber?

A great wind pushes them back and causes them to get stuck in the sand.

2. In the middle of this fiery desert, Charles, Daniel, and Beau find a very unique place of refuge. What is it? Is this feature in Dante's Inferno?

It is a lake of tears and it is featured in Dante's Inferno. Feel free to research that.

3. Three men who are arsonists come to Daniel, Charles, and Beau. What are they doing to keep the burning ashes from hitting them?

They are dancing around oddly.

4. What do they offer Daniel?

They offer him a flask.

5. Why would Daniel be willing to trade the ring for the flask?

Daniel knows its not a fair trade but he wants to be able to have something to drink again. Besides the water soothed his skin. It was such a relief. He figures he could buy another ring. This may be a sign that Daniel isn't really ready to propose to Kristine.

6. How does Charles intervene?

Charles offers his watch instead.

7. What does Charles see in Daniel that seems to have been missing since the first chamber of violence. Why would it show up now?

He sees the Holy Spirit because Daniel is pouring his heart out.

8. What does a sufferer of the third chamber of violence say to Daniel, that put him into a stupor?

He told Daniel "Just go then".

9. When they come to the pit that leads to the Malebolge, what creature do they see emerging from the darkness?

Geryon

Chapter Eighteen

1. Describe Geryon. What page do you find the description.

On page 215, Geryon stinks of sewage and has fleshy wings. It's four legs are large and furry like a lions. It's torso is green and scaly like a dragon. It has a scorpion's take, shaggy hair, and a man's face.

2. What is the Malebolge? What sort of sinners will Daniel, Charles, and Beau find there?

The Malebolge is the Hell for people who were frauds. There are ten ditches.

3. Which trench was Charles in and why?

Charles was in the 7th ditch because he was a thief.

4. How do they get past Geryon and how is it ironic, considering what the Malebolge is?

Beau pretends to be Azrael. He is pretending to be something he isn't. He is conning Geryon.

5. Describe what Daniel sees and feels when they enter the Malebolge? What page can you find this information.

On page 220, Daniel feels hot, musky air. Along the ridge, demons with purple skin and green horns are crowding them.

6. Who is Beau pretending to be?

He pretends to be Azrael

7. How many trenches are in the Malebolge?

There are ten trenches. Daniel can only see six from where he is standing.

8. How does one demon hint that he knows that Beau isn't who he claims to be? Why would the demon play along?

Their demonic guide calls him "wise angel" and even "mighty Azrael", and "most powerful of angels". This is a sort of flattery but it's too much. So much so that it's mockery. The demon seems to be (at least I attempted to have him seem like this) like a killer luring innocent, unsuspecting victims to a horrible demise.

9. How do they make it to the bridge, and who clears the bridge?

They are pointed to follow a path that zigzagged down a cliff. The guide had other guards clear the bridge.

10. What does Daniel witness in the first ditch?

Daniel sees people walking on the left and right side in opposite directions. Demons are whipping them. A man falls down and a demon comes out of a hole and drags him in it.

11. Where does the demon go at the end of the chapter? What do you think he's up to?

The demon leaped into the second ditch. This is inference based question on what he's up to. He smiled at Charles. Why? Because he knows where his mother is. He's going to fetch her out of this ditch. This of course is the actual answer but let students come up with their own conclusions.



1. Who did the demon bring with him when he returned to the bridge?

Charles's mother. Elaine Love Thorne.

2. What is the song that Charles's grandmother used to sing to him? Research this song. The first verse is easy to remember but the third verse is quite interesting.

This Little Light of Mine

3. Who is Charles's father?

The Reverend Charles P. Wilfred. The reverend that Charles hated.

4. This revelation changes Charles. How so? What sentences illustrate that Charles is changing?

Charles's demeanor darkens. He puts on his figurative demonic skin again. There are several good sentences. Have students work in groups to find them or do so as a class. The starting point is on page 230. I think the line "The Reverend Charles P Wilfried. Probably living in Paradise through remitted sins" is the first indication of Charles reverting back.

5. Before they meet the Malebranche, something is happening to Daniel. What is going on inside his head that debilitates him?

There is a loud tone going off in his head and it's all over the place in pitch.

6. What trench are they over when the Malebranche attacks them?

They are over the 5th trench.

7. What being intervenes when the Malebranche attacks? Describe this being?

Azrael intervenes. He's wearing a glowing white robe with a shimmering black shawl.

8. Daniel again considers giving up, but Charles persuades him not to. What does he shout at Azrael before moving on to the next trench?

I choose life!



1. How doe the author try to inject humor at the start of this chapter?

The hypocrites are bickering with each other pointing out flaws in others rather than their own.

2. What are the hypocrites forced to wear?

Golden robes lined with lead.

3. When they reach the ledge that divides the sixth and seventh trench, Charles thinks about his time in the trench of thieves. What does he recall?

He recalls a large centaur called Cacus and a fire-breathing dragon that chased after everyone in the trench. He found out the dragon was blind and hid in a crevice in the wall. He cut it deeper and hid in there for years. He was bitten by a snake which caused his eyes to change. He was later discovered by a demon and offered a position in Satan's Army.

4. Upon reaching the bridge, Charles experiences something everyone in Hell experiences. What is it? Why is he experiencing this for the first time in decades?

Charles experiences the second death. He's experiencing it for the first time in decades because he has a heart again.

5. What does Daniel drop into the final trench of the Malebolge? What happens when he does this?

He drops the flask into the trench and it grows silent.

6. What is the environment like as they travel to the final pit?

It is a cold, windy, frosted, flat desert.

7. What sort of beings do they encounter at the pit?

Giants

8. Why is it ill-advised to climb down the cliff or simply leap down?

It's so cold they'd stick to the sides and their movements would be so restricted they'd be unable to move.

9. Who do they need to find?

Antaeus



Chapter Twenty-One

1. What does Daniel offer to Antaeus?

He offers his crystal pendant and necklace.

2. When they reach the bottom of the pit, Daniel can't move. How do they get him unfrozen? How do they endure the harsh cold of the ninth hell?

Daniel holds the keystone himself, and it warms everything. It allows them to endure the 9th Hell.

3. The crack in the cliff has a particular shape that reminds Daniel of the tree on Grandfather Mountain. What is that shape?

It's a lightning bolt shape

4. What is the name of the first section in Treachery?

Caina

5. Who do they meet in this chamber?

Charles P. Wilfred. Charles's biological father.

6. Who does Charles hear whispering in his head?

It is Satan.

7. What sort of traitors are in the second chamber? How are they positioned?

Traitors to their country are in Antenora. They are up to their chins in ice.

8. What is the name of the third chamber? Who did these people betray?

In Ptolomaea, the traitors had betrayed their guests.

9. The fourth chamber isn't named when they enter it. Research online and find out what the name of this chamber is, and who they betrayed.

Judecca. They betrayed their Lord.

10. Who do they hear calling to them near the end of the chapter?

Judas Iscariot



Chapter Twenty-Two

1. According to the hanging disciple, what is forgiveness and why is it important for Daniel?

Forgiveness is mercy. Daniel needs to forgive his parents because it is an act of mercy.

2. When Daniel, Beau, and Charles enter the final chamber of treachery, what do they find?

They find an eerie statue of Satan.

3. What does Satan ask of Charles?

Satan asks Charles to give him his heart, and replace it with the lump of coal in his pocket.

4. What happens to Beau?

Beau is taken away by what felt and sounded like a mob of demons.

5. What must Daniel do before Satan will allow him to return to earth?

Daniel must give up the ring and toss the keystone.

6. Why is Daniel reluctant to do as Satan asks after traveling all this way?

This is an opinion question. My opinion is that Daniel is frightened of Satan. He knows Satan is a clever liar. But also he has an attachment to these items. He was once afraid of the keystone but isn't anymore. As for the ring, although he was willing to give it up before, he wants to show his love for Kristine. He thinks that giving it to Satan is honoring Satan rather than Kristine.

7. Who shows up and asks Daniel to choose?

Azrael

8. What must Daniel choose?

He must choose to obey Satan or go to Azrael. Choose life or death.

9. In his conversation with Satan, how does Satan lie and entice Daniel to his side? How does Satan try to manipulate Daniel?

Satan said that Daniel showed wisdom when responding to Judas. That people shouldn't have to forgive people who wronged them. That people in Heaven were no different from people in Hell. They were all sinners. Those in Hell suffer to obtain power. Those in Heaven basked in the glories of Heaven completely oblivious to how powerless they are. He said that God is a dictator while he is a liberator.

10. How does Daniel fare? What happens to him when he makes his choice? What does Satan do in response?

Daniel is frightened of either choice, but he doesn't want to be tied to Satan. He doesn't want to live a life indebted to Satan. He feels it is better to die. He chooses to go to Azrael. Satan lashes out and he also starts lying. He tells Daniel that he won't let Azrael kill him in hopes that Daniel will believe that it was Satan who saved him and not Azrael. He also promises to show Daniel how powerful he is. That he is the one who can pain the Almighty God.



Chapter Twenty-Three

1. How does Daniel feel when he wakes up?

He's cold. Real cold.

2. What has happened to his body?

His body is covered in cat-like scratches.

3. How does Kristine react to Daniel's story of Hell? How would you react to such a story?

She is interested in it, but she doesn't really seem to believe it.

4. Daniel wants to propose to Kristine. What stops him?

He feels guilty. He thinks he love her in a selfish way. In other words, he feels he lusts for her rather than loves her.

5. When he gets home, what does he find in his pocket?

It's the keystone but it's different. The spiral was gone. The surface was smooth and translucent with a light-blue sheen.

6. Who does Daniel speak with over the phone?

He spoke to his father and his mother. Then he talked with Bobby Faircloth.

7. By the end of this chapter, how has Daniel's body changed? Why do you think it changed?

The scars that were all over his body disappeared. He was no longer freezing cold either.

8. After escaping Hell, Daniel seems haunted. What does he sense in the dark? What does he hear?

He calls out for Beau, because Beau was a shadow-man. He felt as if something was watching him from the shadows. He hoped it was Beau and not something more sinister. When he lays down he thinks he sees many shadows lingering about. He also here's whispering voices. One says 'I saved you from death and this is what you do? Oh Daniel. There will be no rest. I got plans for you, friend."

9. What happened to Beau? Where is he?

Beau was taken to Limbo. He is sitting on a hillside just outside of Grayton.

10. Who does Beau meet?

Beau meets someone named Chance.

11. What does this person suggest Beau do?

Chance tells Beau to catch the bus in town.

12. Where is Charles? How is he dressed? What does he take from Marcus? What does he give to Marcus? What does this tell us about Charles? How has he changed?

Charles is back in his old clothes in the third chamber of Violence where he takes his watch back from Marcus. He also returns the flask. This is a more humane act than warranted from Charles. It's likely that Charles isn't the demon he used to be. He still remembers Daniel, Beau, and his grandmother.



Further Discussion

1. What is the significance of Grandfather Mountain to this story? Why would the author chose this place as a key location for this story?

Grandfather Mountain has a legacy. It fits this story nicely because there is Daniel's journey of making amends with his father and the God the Father. It seemed that there needed to be a Grandfather as well. Also, I have hiked this mountain and have particular spots that came to mind while writing the opening scenes, most notably the Mile-High Swinging Bridge.

2. The end of this book hints at sequel. What do you expect to happen in the sequel? What will Charles, Beau, and Daniel be up to?

I will not give my expectations because I'm the author. I'll say that the next book is entitled Almost Paradise. As of today, I'm nearly done with it.

3. We experience dark times in our lives. Some people refer to such times as "a living hell". Has there been a time like this in your life? How did you/are you faring through it? What are your hopes?

This is a personal question. While it is therapeutic to share these things, don't feel obligated to share. If you're not willing to share such a time in your life, consider another character that went through a terrible ordeal, and talk about that instead.

4. Compare and contrast each Hell that Daniel, Beau, and Charles went through with Dante's Inferno. You may do this as you go, or have 9 groups to create visual aids to show these comparisons and present them in class.