

Introduction to Dante Questions

NAME _____

1. **Background:** What is an archaic meaning for *comedy*?
2. In which country did Dante Alighieri live?
3. In what language did he choose to write his poems?
4. What are the three parts of *The Divine Comedy*?
5. According to Dante, what is the shape of Hell?
6. Is Dante's journey through Hell meant to be taken literally? Explain.
7. Who is Dante's guide through Hell and also his literary hero?
8. How did Greek mythology inspire Dante's poem?
9. What are three Greek mythological creatures that appear in Dante's *Inferno*?
10. In Greek mythology what must all souls do before entering the Underworld?
11. How did Dante get back at some of his real-life enemies?
12. How did Dante organize his imagining of Hell?

13. According to Dante, what event causes the crater that became Hell?
14. What is the shape of Purgatory, the area between Heaven and Hell?
15. What famous location is located at the top of Purgatory?
16. The third part of *The Divine Comedy* is Dante's journey through what place?
17. Who is Dante's guide through the last two parts of *The Divine Comedy*?
18. What connection did Dante have with this real-life person?
19. Dante's *Divine Comedy* is often called what?
20. **Analyze:** Why do you think *Inferno*, the part of Dante's poem that deals with Hell, has always been the most widely read portion of the poem?