Canto 1
1. At what age is Dante at the beginning of the story? How is this age known?

2. Where is Dante at the beginning, how did he get there?

3. What day is it?

4. What three animals does Dante encounter? Look at the notes what political figures do each represent?

5. Who comes to Dante’s aid? What is he renowned for?

6. According to Virgil what will eventually defeat the she-wolf? Who does this creature represent?

7. What is the name of the mountain before Dante? As an allegory what could the three beasts also represent that prevent Dante from climbing the mountain?

8. Why must they find a different path?

Canto 2
1. What epic convention is used at the beginning of Canto 2?

2. What other famous figures’ footsteps is Dante following by descending into hell? How does he feel compared to them?

3. Scholars call the heavenly women who are looking out for Dante the Three Ladies Benedight (Blessed), who are they? What connection do they have to Dante?

4. What effect does Virgil’s story have on Dante?

Canto 3
1. Summarize the meaning inscribed on the gates of Hell.

2. Who are the first souls Dante meets in the Ante-Hell?

3. What soul does Dante recognize here? What specific sin did he commit?

4. What is the punishment of these souls? How is it representative of their sins?

5. Why does Charon refuse Dante passage over the Acheron?

6. Why motivates the souls to getting into the boat with Charon sending them to damnation?

7. What happens to Dante as the ground of Hell shook and gas poured from the crevice?

**Canto 4**

1. Why does Virgil appear so pale entering Circle One?

2. What is the sin of Circle One?

3. What is the punishment of Circle One? How is it representative of the sin committed?

4. Who are the only ones saved from this part of Hell and how?

5. What famous ancient structure exists here?

6. Name FOUR famous figures in this circle.

7. What is Dante’s reaction to these sinners? Why do you think he feels this way?

**Canto 5**
1. Who was Minos? What is his job in Hell?

2. What is the sin for Circle Two?

3. What is the punishment of Circle Two? How is it symbolic of their sins?

4. Name Four people who are in Circle Two and briefly describe how they got there?

5. What is Dante’s reaction to the sinners in this circle? Why do you think he feels this way?

**Canto Six**

1. What is the sin of circle three?

2. What is the punishment? How is this symbolic of the sin?

3. What is Cerberus? What is his role in Hell?

4. How do Dante and Virgil get past Cerberus?

5. What is Ciacco’s prediction for Florence?

6. At the Day of Judgment (Doomsday), what will happen to the people in Hell?

**Canto Seven**

1. What is the sin in circle four?

2. What is the punishment? How is this symbolic of the sin?
3. Who is Plutus? What is his job in circle four?

4. Who is Lady Fortune? How does he affect mankind? How does man affect her?

5. What is the sin in circle five?

6. What is the punishment (as we see it so far)? How does this seem symbolic of the sin?

Canto Eight
1. Why was Phlegyas sentenced to work in the fifth circle of hell specifically?

2. How does Dante feel about the punishment of Argenti?

3. Where does the city of Dis get its name?

4. Who guards the gates of Dis?

5. What threat to they make to Dante? How does he feel about this?

Canto Nine
1. Why have Dante and Virgil stopped their journey? How does this make Virgil feel?

2. According to the notes, why does Virgil claim to have been summoned here before?
3. What new monsters do the travelers encounter guarding Dis? How do Virgil and Dante respond to them?

4. Why can Dante not look at Medusa?

5. How were Dante and Virgil finally about to make it into Dis?

6. What is the punishment in circle six?

7. Who is being punished here?

Canto Ten
1. What will happen to these sinners on Judgment Day?

2. Who was Farinata in life? How does Dante react to his presence here?

3. Why was Dante hesitant to talk about his friend Guido? (see notes about his future relationship with him)

4. What does Farinata predict for Dante?

5. How are the dead capable of seeing into the future? What vision do they lack?

6. How does Virgil try to comfort Dante after this news?

Canto 12
1. What monster guards the entrance of circle seven, right at the end of the massive rockslide?

2. What creatures guard the first ring of circle seven?

3. What is the punishment of the first ring? How does it represent their sin?
4. What violent sin did these souls commit?

Canto 13
1. What violent sin did the souls in the second ring commit?
2. What is the punishment of this ring?
3. What creatures exist to inflict more pain among the souls in this ring? Describe their looks.
4. Instead of rejoining their bodies (like other souls) on Judgment Day, what will happen to the bodies of these souls? Why?
5. Who were Lano and Jacomo? How are they punished here?

Canto 14
1. What violent sin is in this ring?
2. What is their punishment? How does it represent their sin?
3. Why is Capaneus a good example of a sinner here?
4. What is the giant under Crete made of? What do the notes say these parts represent?
5. The tears from the cracks of the giant flow to create what?

Canto 15
1. How does Dante feel seeing Brunetto Latini here in hell?
2. Why does Latini say he must keep moving here?
3. According to the notes, why do scholars believe Latini (and the other famous scholars) are in this layer of hell?
4. What does Latini predict for Dante’s future?
Canto 16
1. Why are Guido Guerra, Tegghiaio Aldobrandi, and Jacopo Rusticucci so interested in speaking with Dante?

2. How does Dante feel about the punishment of these men? Why does he say he feels this way about them?

3. What does Dante report is the condition of Florence?

4. What does Virgil use to fish out the creature from Circle 8?

Canto 17
1. Circle 8 is the circle of Fraud—define what fraud means to you.

2. What does the Geryon look like? Why is this a good creature to represent Circle 8?

3. Who do the souls with the moneybags represent? What was their sin? How does their punishment fit their sin?

4. Why must Dante and Virgil ride the Geryon to get to Circle 8? How does Dante feel about this ride?

Canto 18
1. How many ditches are in circle 8?

2. What sinners are in the first ditch? What is their punishment?

3. What did Venedico de’Caccianimico do to be in this ditch?

4. What did Jason do to be in this ditch?

5. Who are the sinners in the second ditch? What is their punishment?

6. What does the punishment match the crime in the second ditch?

Canto 19
1. What is the sin in the third ditch?
2. What is the punishment? How does the punishment fit the sin?

3. Who is the “wild twitcher” and who does he confuse Dante for?

4. What do we learn about the pope that will come after Boniface?

5. How does Dante feel about the sinners in this ditch? (look at the speech he make to them)

6. How does the sinners react to Dante’s speech?

**Canto 20**

1. What is the sin in the fourth ditch?

2. What is their punishment? How does their punishment fit their sin?

3. How does Dante feel upon first seeing this punishment?

4. How does Virgil react to Dante’s behavior here?

5. Virgil tells the story of the founding of Mantua—who is the city named for and why?

6. Select two of the sinners of this ditch and explain why they are there.

**Canto 21**

1. Who are the sinners in this ditch?

2. What are their punishment? How does their punishment fit their sin?

3. What happens when a sinner tries to float using the “Jesus” or “dead-man float”?

4. Why can’t Dante and Virgil cross to the next ditch?

5. How do the demons offer to help Dante and Virgil?

6. Contrast Dante’s and Virgil’s responses to the help from the demons.
Canto 22
1. Name one of the similes Dante uses to describe the sinners in the pitch.

2. How do the demons act as Dante tries to talk to Ciampolo the sinner?

3. How did Ciampolo escape from the demons?

4. How did the demons react to the escape?

Canto 23
1. How is the scene at the end of Canto 22 similar to the frog and mouse fable described in the notes?

2. What is a hypocrite? What is their punishment?

3. How does this punishment match the sin?

4. What sin did Catalano and Loderino commit to make them hypocrites?

5. What is the punishment of Ciaphas? Why do you think his is worse than the other sinners here?

6. What causes Virgil to get enraged?

Canto 24
1. How does Virgil respond to Dante’s request for rest after the tough climb over the broken bridge?

2. What is the sin of the seventh ditch?

3. What is the punishment? How does the punishment match the sin?

4. What terrible punishment do they witness happen to Fucci Vanni?

5. How does Fucci feel about being recognized by Dante?

6. What does Fucci confess to?
7. Why does Fucci say Dante has no room to gloat over his bad fate?

Canto 25
1. What happens to Fucci? Why?

2. Why is Cacus in circle 8 instead of with the other Centaurs in 7? (see notes)

3. What happens to Agnello?

4. What happens to Agnello’s two friends?

Canto 26
1. Why does ditch seven make Dante ashamed of Florence?

2. What is the punishment of the eight ditch? How does the punishment match the sin?

3. Ulysses and Deidamia are both called heroes, but why are they in hell? (see notes)

4. Why does Virgil say these heroes are indebted to him to speak with him?

5. According to Ulysses, what did he see in his last voyage?

Canto 27
1. What other punishment is seen here in ditch 8?

2. What is Guido Da Montefeltro so eager to speak with Dante?

3. What does Dante tell Guido?

4. Why does Guido willingly tell his story to Dante?

5. According to Guido how did Pope Boniface trick him into sin? What happened to Guido when he died?

Canto 28
1. What is the sinners in ditch 9?

2. What is the punishment of this ditch? How does the punishment match the sin?

3. Who does Mohammed ask Dante to send a message to? Why?

4. Name two of the sinners and their specific sins?

5. Why is Bertrand de Born never to be united with his head?

Cantos 29
1. Why does Dante stall for more time in ditch 9?

2. What is the sin of ditch 10? What is the punishment?

3. How did a poorly timed joke damn Griffolino?

Canto 30
4. What is the punishment of Gianni Schicci? What was his sin in life?

5. What is the punishment of Master Adam? What did he do to be placed in hell?

6. Who does Master Adam get into a fight with? Where do we know this character?

7. Why does Virgil yell at Dante at the end of canto 30?

Canto 31
1. What guards the last layer of hell?

2. Why is Nimrod unable to be understood and unable to understand the speech of others?

3. Why is Antaeus unbound?

4. How does Virgil convince Antaeus to help them?

Canto 32
1. What is the general sin of circle? What is the punishment of all the sinners in Circle 9? How does this punishment match the sin?

2. What is the first section of Circle 9 called, how did it get its name?

3. What is the specific punishment of this section?

4. Name TWO sinners mentioned here and what they did get to here?

5. Why is the second section of Circle 9 called the Antenora? What is the specific sin here? What is their punishment?

6. How does Bocca respond to Dante’s request for information?

7. What does Dante do to Bocca to illicit information from him?

Canto 33
1. Why does Count Ugolino gnaw on Archbishop Ruggieri’s head?

2. Why does Dante curse Pisa after hearing Ugolino’s story?

3. What is the third section of Circle 9 called? Why?

4. What is the punishment for the sinners here?

5. Why is Dante surprised to see Friar Alberigo here?

6. What sin did he commit? What happened to after his actions?

Canto 34
1. What is the last section of hell called? How did it get its name?
2. What is the punishment of the sinners here?

3. Who are the three men Lucifer gnaws on? What were their crimes?

4. Describe what Lucifer looks like, what is symbolic about his features?

5. How must Virgil and Dante get out of Hell?

6. Why does Dante become disoriented?

7. What day is it?