

Write one full page single-spaced. They are due Friday by noon under my office door or in my mail box in South Hall. You should see the exercise as a way to help you write your final paper. That is, even if you do not write on the same topic for your paper, you want to do similar work: an analysis of a part of the text focusing on a particular issue or question from which you will offer a thesis which you support with textual quotations. Remember to use correct form when quoting. Also keep in mind that these questions are jumping off points and you are in no way required to address all facets of them.

1. Analyze the character of Abdiel. Have we met anyone like him yet in PL? How does his language (the tone and word choice) help us understand his character?
2. Explore the topic of the materiality of the angelic body. You might want to look at Raphael's conversation with Adam on the subject in Book V (396-433) or the war in heaven.
3. Consider the topic of knowledge in Books V-VII in relation to Adam's conversations with Raphael. Has Raphael already given Adam the knowledge of evil in his "warning"--the story of the war in heaven? How much is enough knowledge? Can Eve know as much as Adam?
4. Explore the issue of sovereignty in Books V-VII. Does Milton's relationship to his own king help us to understand and/or complicate his views on the sovereignty of God?
5. How does the Satan of Books V & VI compare with the Satan of Books I-IV? Should we take into account the issues of temporality (i.e. the "time" of the plot vs. the "time" of the narrative)?
6. Pick a day of creation from Book VII and compare it with its counterpart in Genesis. In what specific ways does Milton expand and/or change the original? To what effect?