



Infernal Fall
Discussion Questions



Chapter One

1. What evidence in the text shows that Daniel was a soldier?
2. Why would Kristine compare Daniel to Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde?
3. List some negative and positive characteristics we see in Daniel? Explain reasoning in small groups.
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?
5. What draws Daniel away from the path?
6. What is etched on the stone that Daniel finds in the cave?
7. Given the shape of the stone and what is etched on it, what does the stone look like and what does that represent?
8. What does the spiral on the stone represent?
9. How does the narrator show Daniel's love for Kristine as he's clinging to the root in the hole?
10. As Daniel falls into the pit, the narrator states "Terror blinding his reason, he clung to hope." What does that mean?

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?



Chapter Two

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.
2. Daniel has two goals at this point. What are they?
3. Charles has a particular job. What is that job?
4. What is Charles wearing and what does he keep with him?
5. The Dishonorable Judge Baxter has a nickname. What is it and why do they call him that?
6. What is Charles's nickname. Why do they call him that?
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?
8. What happens when Charles's watch indicates that it is 6:30?
9. Charles has collected dead souls from the valley for decades, what occurs differently this time?
10. How does Charles know that Daniel is undead?

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?

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

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

14. What does Beau bring into Hell with him?

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

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?



Chapter Three

1. What happens when Daniel stamps on his reflection?
2. Why does Daniel stamp on his reflection?
3. What does Daniel think about Charles?
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?
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?
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?
7. What happened to Charles when he put Daniel to sleep?
8. Pop Culture: Sci Fi fun tidbit question! What character in science fiction was able to make people pass out with a simple touch?
9. What is the spirit that Charles believes is inside Daniel?
10. Why is Beau so clumsy?

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

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

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

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

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?



Chapter Four

1. Why does Daniel taste something bitter on his tongue?
2. Daniel no longer feels injured. How does he rationalize this?
3. How does telling the truth work against Beau in this situation?
4. Who will Charles need to meet when he gets to Grayton?
5. Daniel didn't question Charles about his strange attire earlier. Why would he choose to ask him about it at this point?
6. Charles accidentally 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?
7. How was Beau able to carry the keystone and horn when he was a shadow?
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?
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?



Chapter Five

1. Describe the vagrant that Beau interrogates at the end of the alley. Quote the line and page.
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?
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?
4. How is Charles able to show his authority over citizens of Grayton?
5. What are references to C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, in this chapter?
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?
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?

8. Daniel handles the horn for the first time. What does he see when he looks through it?
9. What happens when you blow the horn?
10. Why does Charles say “Pitiful” when the guard behind the glass hangs up the phone? What does this tell us about the guard?
11. Why does the king prefer solitude?
12. What does Charles discover about the king that offers him leverage?
13. Before the king experiences the “second death”, he says “Hand me your pocketwa-wa...” How is this foreshadowing?
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.



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?
2. Beau used to be a shadow. What was he before he was a shadow?
3. According to Beau, what must Daniel do to escape Hell?
4. What are some things we learn about Daniel in this chapter. Provide textual evidence?
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.”?
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.
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?
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?
9. Why would Charles react strangely when Beau says, “You're human.”

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

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?

12. How does Beau revive Daniel?

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

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 \(columbia.edu\)](#))

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

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

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

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



Chapter Seven

1. What is “free love”?
2. Is “free love” the same as “love”? Explain your answer.
3. What is the author’s opinion on “free love”? What evidence supports your claim?
4. Does Joseph take any responsibility for his past mistakes? If not, does he blame anyone else for his downfall?
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?
6. In this chapter, Daniel accepts that he is in Hell. How does he react to this? Provide textual evidence.
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.
8. Who are the two ancient demons who show up in this chapter?
9. Why did the demons banish Charles, Beau, and Daniel from Lust?
10. Who is Azrael?



Chapter Eight

1. What caused Beau to have a vision where he wakes up in a field?
2. What is Cerberus? How is it depicted in Greek mythology?
3. Why would Charles, Beau, and Daniel need to be concerned about Cerberus?
4. What plan do they come up with to get by Cerberus?
5. Does the plan work? Did anything happen that wasn't expected?



Chapter Nine

1. What memories occur to Charles in this chapter? What stirred this memory?
2. Who does Daniel wake up using the horn? Why does he do this?
3. Why are Beau and Daniel arguing at the start of the chapter?
4. What is Beau's theory on why Daniel is in Hell?
5. Who are the ladies of Gluttony and why are they significant to the story?
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?



Chapter Ten

1. What happened when Holly slapped Daniel, and why would that bother Charles?
2. Another memory occurs to Charles. Who is with him? What was his nickname?
3. Why would Beau ask Daniel if he believed his father was in Gluttony? What is his motive?
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.)
5. Charles details what they can expect in Greed. Who are the squanders and the hoarders? Why would they be at war?
6. Why is Charles reluctant to hide his watch?
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?



Chapter Eleven

1. Daniel has a vision of Azrael. What does he learn? What question stirs when he sees Kristine in the vision?
2. Who is Fortuna and why would she appear now?
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.
4. Daniel, Beau, and Charles come across a group of men on their way to Greed. Describe these men. Are they hoarders or squanderers?
5. Who is Mammon?
6. Who is Plutus?
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.
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?



Chapter Twelve

1. How are rings significant to a marriage? What does Daniel think about the ring he is carrying?
2. Who killed Phlegyas? Why are the arrowheads important to him now?
3. Through this chapter Daniel becomes more and more irritated. Why?
4. Where is Phlegyas taking Daniel, Beau, and Charles? Why doesn't he just kill them?
5. As Daniel hands over his arrowhead, Phlegyas attacks him. How does he get away?
6. Charles lost his jacket in an earlier chapter. What does he lose in this chapter?
7. How does Charles physically change? Do you feel that these changes will have consequences for Charles? Explain your answer.



Chapter Thirteen

1. Who are in the catacombs?
2. Who are the Furies?
3. Why are no demons roaming the parapets?
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.
5. What is Heresy?
6. Describe what Daniel sees when he enters into the city. Note the page where the textual evidence is located.
7. A heretic calls Daniel a particular kind of sinner. What is he called? Do you know why?
8. What happens to Daniel at the end of the chapter? Why?



Chapter Fourteen

1. How does Charles, Beau, and Daniel reach the seventh hell?
2. What do they witness when they find the subterranean river of blood?
3. How does Stygian Lake compare and contrast to this first chamber of violence? How do both environments affect Daniel's mood?
4. Who is Azazel and what does he want to take from Daniel?
5. How do they escape Azazel?



Chapter Fifteen

1. How does the keystone help them as they follow the subterranean river to the next chamber of Violence?
2. As they near the end, they come across a ceremony. What is the ceremony and who is presiding over it?
3. How does Charles, Daniel, and Beau get past the demons in this chapter?
4. When they reach the second chamber of Violence, how are they healed?
5. Why is Daniel feeling more hopeless?
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?
7. What does Charles regain in this chapter?



Chapter Sixteen

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?
2. What are the trees in the second chamber of violence?
3. Who does Daniel meet in this chapter? Why is this person in the second chamber of violence?
4. What does the name “Azrael” mean?
5. If you were Daniel, would you continue or head back to find Azrael at this point? Why or why not?
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?
7. What are the creatures they find in this second chamber of violence? Describe them.
8. What small land feature do they find that will lead them to the third chamber of violence.



Chapter Seventeen

1. Why don't those who are stuck in the third chamber of violence flee to the less horrible second chamber?
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*?
3. Three men who are arsonists come to Daniel, Charles, and Beau. What are they doing to keep the burning ashes from hitting them?
4. What do they offer Daniel?
5. Why would Daniel be willing to trade the ring for the flask?
6. How does Charles intervene?
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?
8. What does a sufferer of the third chamber of violence say to Daniel, that put him into a stupor?
9. When they come to the pit that leads to the Malebolge, what creature do they see emerging from the darkness?



Chapter Eighteen

1. Describe Geryon. What page do you find the description.
2. What is the Malebolge? What sort of sinners will Daniel, Charles, and Beau find there?
3. Which trench was Charles in and why?
4. How do they get past Geryon and how is it ironic, considering what the Malebolge is?
5. Describe what Daniel sees and feels when they enter the Malebolge? What page can you find this information.
6. Who is Beau pretending to be?
7. How many trenches are in the Malebolge?
8. How does one demon hint that he knows that Beau isn't who he claims to be? Why would the demon play along?
9. How do they make it to the bridge, and who clears the bridge?
10. What does Daniel witness in the first ditch?
11. Where does the demon go at the end of the chapter? What do you think he's up to?



Chapter Nineteen

1. Who did the demon bring with him when he returned to the bridge?
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.
3. Who is Charles's father?
4. This revelation changes Charles. How so? What sentences illustrate that Charles is changing?
5. Before they meet the Malebranche, something is happening to Daniel. What is going on inside his head that debilitates him?
6. What trench are they over when the Malebranche attacks them?
7. What being intervenes when the Malebranche attacks? Describe this being?
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?



Chapter Twenty

1. How does the author try to inject humor at the start of this chapter?
2. What are the hypocrites forced to wear?
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?
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?
5. What does Daniel drop into the final trench of the Malebolge? What happens when he does this?
6. What is the environment like as they travel to the final pit?
7. What sort of beings do they encounter at the pit?
8. Why is it ill-advised to climb down the cliff or simply leap down?
9. Who do they need to find?



Chapter Twenty-One

1. What does Daniel offer to Antaeus?
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?
3. The crack in the cliff has a particular shape that reminds Daniel of the tree on Grandfather Mountain. What is that shape?
4. What is the name of the first section in Treachery?
5. Who do they meet in this chamber?
6. Who does Charles hear whispering in his head?
7. What sort of traitors are in the second chamber? How are they positioned?
8. What is the name of the third chamber? Who did these people betray?
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.
10. Who do they hear calling to them near the end of the chapter?



Chapter Twenty-Two

1. According to the hanging disciple, what is forgiveness and why is it important for Daniel?
2. When Daniel, Beau, and Charles enter the final chamber of treachery, what do they find?
3. What does Satan ask of Charles?
4. What happens to Beau?
5. What must Daniel do before Satan will allow him to return to earth?
6. Why is Daniel reluctant to do as Satan asks after traveling all this way?
7. Who shows up and asks Daniel to choose?
8. What must Daniel choose?
9. In his conversation with Satan, how does Satan lie and entice Daniel to his side? How does Satan try to manipulate Daniel?
10. How does Daniel fare? What happens to him when he makes his choice? What does Satan do in response?



Chapter Twenty-Three

1. How does Daniel feel when he wakes up?
2. What has happened to his body?
3. How does Kristine react to Daniel's story of Hell? How would you react to such a story?
4. Daniel wants to propose to Kristine. What stops him?
5. When he gets home, what does he find in his pocket?
6. Who does Daniel speak with over the phone?
7. By the end of this chapter, how has Daniel's body changed? Why do you think it changed?
8. After escaping Hell, Daniel seems haunted. What does he sense in the dark? What does he hear?
9. What happened to Beau? Where is he?
10. Who does Beau meet?
11. What does this person suggest Beau do?
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?



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?
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?
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?
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.