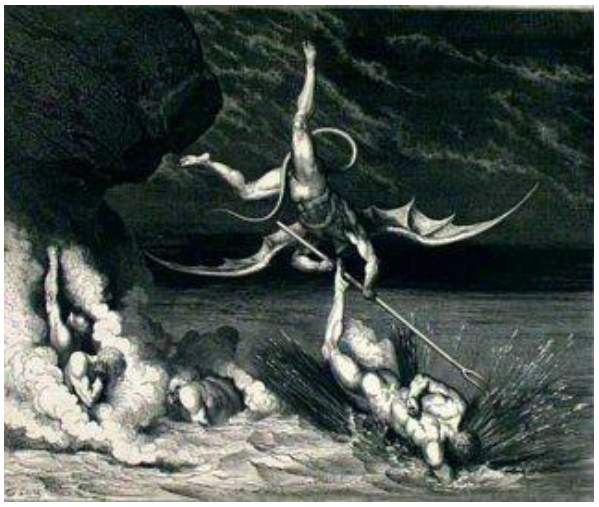
The Inferno – Finding meaning in translation (600 points)

Leave those
Italian teachers alone!

Begin this assignment by choosing a partner; by now you should know how important it is to find someone who will work as hard as you – with you – and in a way that you compliment each other. You and your partner are to translate a small part of Dante's *Inferno* (2 stanzas). You are not to consult your book or any other translation, but you are to talk to, email, and otherwise confer with your classmates.

I knew I should have taken Philosophy & Lit



The first step is to be assigned two stanzas. After you get your assignment, you are to transliterate every word in your section. That means you are going to find what every word in Italian (in your two stanzas) literally means in English. See the illustration below and the worksheet. You will find Italian dictionaries useful, but you will run into problems when you get to verbs (remember they have all those conjugated forms). There are massive dictionaries that contain all the various verb forms – you will have to seek them out. You can also find Italian dictionaries online (go to google – type Italian English dictionary). **Do not look up your lines on the Internet – this will only lead to plagiarism** – inadvertent or not. You may find the internet a good source for Italian Dictionaries – but remember you must translate each word – not phrases or sentences.

Do not try to find your stanza in translation – it will lead to (at the least) inadvertent influence of that other translation – or plagiarism (at the worst).

You are not to overly bother the Italian teachers – at the most you may ask them about ONE word or phrase – and if you do – you are required to ask them how you can help them (as they are giving you a piece of their time). If they are busy – leave them alone or face my wrath – you are to do this assignment yourself – using dictionaries and your own intelligence & creativity. Remember, feel free to consult with your class members about words, good dictionaries, or strategies for translating in general.

English *The fridge cold is it freezes toes my*

Italian *La icaboxa frigida est el coldamizas toesa ma*



Now the fun part – You will take what will probably look like a bunch of nonsense, and turn it into a poem. How do you do this? Well, first play with the English words until you and your partner can come up with some possible meanings of the line(s). This would also be a good time (before you get too involved in the actual writing of the poetry – the translation) to consult with the partners that have the lines before yours and the partners that have the lines after yours. This is without a doubt, the hardest but also the most rewarding part of this assignment. There will be a poll on our website as to whether to do it in verse or prose and if verse whether to do it in terza rhima or some other format. See the website for details – concentrate on the transliteration at this point – it is up to you and the those that precede and follow you. Find the poet in you.

Fill out the worksheet when you are done – then you will find a form on AwaytoTeach for uploading both your transliterations and your poetic translation – a translation will not be accepted without your lines showing that translation of each word. These assignments are due February 2. Get started right away – this assignment will take a long time (more than you might initially think)

Stanzas Assignments for Dante in Translation

Stanzas #	Partners		Stanzas #	Partners
-1			14	
1			15	
2			16	
3			17	
4			18	
5			19	
6			20	
7			21	
8			22	
9			23	
10			24	
11			25	
12				
13				

Inferno Translation Worksheet

Name1 _____

Name2 _____ Pd___

I. Your stanzas transliterated
Stanzas Number _____

write your words and draw arrows between each word and its English counterpart.

1. Italian

_____

_____

English

2. Italian

_____

_____

English

3. Italian

_____

_____

English

4. Italian

English

5. Italian

English

6. Italian

English

(7). Italian

English

II. Your stanzas as poetry

(your own poetry) – though you need to confer with the partners that have the stanzas before yours and after yours so that there is a "blending" in meaning & form.

Stanza ____

Stanza ____

Make sure that you have filled out the other side of this worksheet (I don't know how you could do the above without having done the other part first). This translation will not be accepted without the transliteration (the other side).