English 4190, Milton

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Short Exercise: Analyzing an Epic, Book by Book

*Paradise Lost* (1674) Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What kind of *plot* is it? Simple or complex? Linear, disrupted, retrospective, a sequence of conversations, a sequence of actions? (*Mythos*)

Briefly summarize the plot:

1. Who are the principal *characters*? Do they speak or act or both? What qualities determine their actions? With whom do they experience conflicts? (*Ethos*)
2. What *values* are tested or presumed? What concepts or ideas are under examination? (*Dianoia*)
3. What are the three most important *speeches*? Why? (*Lexis*)

A.

B.

C.

1. What is the most *beautiful*, touching, moving moment in the book? (*Melos*)
2. What is the most vivid *visual* incident in the book? (*Opsis*)
3. What are the most memorable figures of speech (esp. epic similes), rhetorical tropes, and images?