

Milton Paper Topics

1. Explore the depiction of women in Milton's works. Are there both positive and negative depictions of Eve? You might want to compare and contrast Eve with other female characters in works such as *Comus* and *Sampson Agonistes*.
2. If *Paradise Lost* is an epic poem, who is the hero? Satan? The Son? The Father? One of the Angels? Is Milton's definition of heroism the same as that of previous epic poets?
3. There are numerous parallel passages in *Paradise Lost*. Choose one set of parallel passages and analyze their relationship to each other, and to the poem as a whole. Suggested pairs: Satan's encounter with Sin and Death in Book 2, and his encounter with Zephon, Ithuriel, and Gabriel in Book 4; Eve's account of her birth (and her first encounter with Adam) in Book 4 and Adam's account of his birth (and his first encounter with Eve) in Book 8; and the Son's offer to sacrifice himself in Book 3 and Adam's offer to sacrifice himself in Book 9 (you might want to throw Satan's offer to sacrifice himself in Book 2 into the mix here as well).
4. Analyze several of Milton's epic similes and develop a coherent, focused argument about how he uses them.

Feel free to write on a topic of your choice—but please consult with me before you do so.

See my handouts page for suggestions on writing about literature.