Dante, an Italian poet gone mad through love, demonstrates blatantly to his readers his true character through his *Divine Comedy*. Inappropriate and boring, the *Comedy* nearly lives up to its name in a way not intended its author.

Dante weaves a ridiculous myth in which the Pagan Virgil leads him safely through Hell and Purgatory, where they view the sufferings of different individuals, into Paradise, where he encounters his lifetime love Beatrice, with whom he is infatuated.

The story is unclear. Dante’s zealous patriotism gave way to excessive reference to Rome and Italy, making the story confusing for any who does not know in detail Italy’s history. This, coupled with Dante’s passion for detail, leads to an overall fuzzy message and confused narrative.

Dante’s narrative, while feasible if set in a fairy-tale world, contains real people and real places. Given this setting, the details are impossible and incredulous. Certain geographical situations of Hell are scientifically impossible. For example, Hell is essentially a tunnel through the earth, magically turning on its gravitational axis at the center of the earth.

Even if the physical impossibilities of the narrative were dispersed, there remains the huge improbability that a man could travel through Hell unharmed. The ludicrous punishments are improbable as well, in that the souls suffering such torment could not possibly live through it.

Also, the narrative is not credible. Dante invents his own stories about factual characters and in contradiction to known fact.

Ultimately, however, the narrative is inappropriate. Violent descriptions and unrestrained recounting of background stories gives the *Comedy* the distinctive flavor of mud. It is not the information anyone needs, especially when reading of Heaven.

Finally, the story is worthless. Other than innumerable, pointless mini-history lessons when discussing each suffering character of Hell, there is no expedient part of the narrative.

Such a story and narrative should not, therefore, be read, as it neither purports virtue nor teaches it.