***Paradise Lost* Review Sheet**

**Courtesy of Prof. Vicki Silver of UC Irvine**

You might locate these ideas and features and frame them into a theory about Milton’s manner of justifying the ways of God to men.

**Motifs**:

ascent/descent/rising/falling/exaltations/elevation/aspiring/reaching/falling

tyranny/imperialism/conquest/thunder/arms/servitude/prohibition/forbidding

knowledge/reason/food/fruit/taste/reach

“fixed” minds/inner realities

courtly/sensuous/irrational idiom

erring/wandering/falling/standing

art/technology/fire/mining

ear/understanding/susceptibility

fruit/fruits/fruition/seed

wanton/fierce (pre- and post-lapsarian nature/psychology)

surfeit/superfluity/satiation/surcharge/abundance/consumption

degree/scale/gradation/gradual/several

gods/godhood/godlike/godliness

“hardening” of hearts/materialism/grossness/wounds/distemper/discord

“fit” audience/auditors/ear/regeneracy/sinfulness

flowers/vines/ivy/roses/myrtles/decay

chance/hap/lot/fate

refinement/trial/regeneration/respiration/ascent

darts/fatal/mortal

**Themes**

self-reflexive/recoiling action of sin/solipsism/narcissism

determinism/free will/sufficiency/obedience/liberty/choice

naming/styling/fabling/feigning/shape-shifting/hypocrisy/ornament/outward show

materialism/fatalism/self-generation

Trinity and anti-Trinity/three/heaven and hell parallels

cosmic organicity/animation/physiology/natural law

hierarchy/relationship/faculties/senses/order/usurpation/submission/obedience

pre- and post-lapsarian nature/faculty psychology/reason/rationalism/fancy

unity/multiplicity

sin/corruption/infection/promiscuity/surfeit/rapacity

language/efficacious words/the Word/rhetoric/deception/signs/footsteps/types

knowledge/intuition/perception/speculation

bringing good from evil/providence/omniscience/*felix culpa*

relationship/sympathy/intercession/mediation/grace/prayer/vicarious atonement

**Modes**

invocation/muses/narrative and poetic authority

verb tenses

double syntax/ambiguity

mimetic syntax/ascent/descent/pause/confusion

antithesis/antimetabole/paradox/oxymoron

narrator’s interpolations/exclamations

typological significance

epic similes/subversive/digressive/delusive/apt

narrative hesitations or qualifications: “or”/”if”/”seemed”

pagan analogues

hyperbole/circumlocution/chaotic syntax

soliloquy/apostrophe/idolatry/animism (the latter two are modes *cum* themes)

language “accommodated” to human understanding/inspiration/prophecy/narrative

atoning or sacrificial “me”/despairing or fallen “me”

all forms of verbal or structural repetition