

Reading Strategy

READING DIFFICULT TEXTS

As you read a text as difficult as Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, you may use certain strategies to improve your understanding. Paraphrase to simplify difficult **syntax** (word order). Replace unclear pronouns with names to clarify who is speaking or who is being described. Use sidenotes to interpret **archaic expressions**. Focus on the thoughts, words, and actions of the main character.

Directions: Use the chart to take notes about Satan, the main character in this excerpt of the poem. An example has been done for you.

Satan

Thoughts	Words	Actions
Satan wonders how to get his revenge on God.	Satan says all is not lost because he has been cast out of Heaven.	Satan and Beëlzebub lie in a fiery lake after having been thrown out of heaven.