

Book Club *Inferno*

by [Steven Peterson](#) in the [October 2024](#) issue

Published on October 3, 2024

We're reading the *Inferno* once again  
For book club. We have read it twice before.  
Though two more books had come from Dante's pen,

We stick with Hell, the subject we adore.  
That book on Purgatory many doubt  
And Paradise, let's face it, is a bore.

Yet Hell feels so delightful, all about  
The kinds of people we have known in life,  
Landing poetic pokes on several snouts.

Divisive politics and civil strife  
Remind us of today, and we discuss  
If those adulterers deserved the knife.

And best of all, for all their cries and fuss,  
We're merely on a tour, just passing through.  
Hell is for other people—but not us.

We'll never get to Paradise. Will you?