

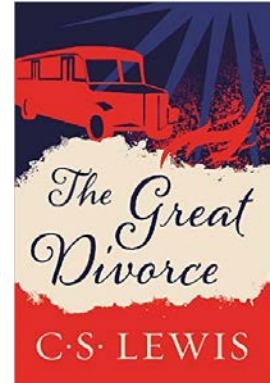
**Summer Reading**  
**Honors Medieval Renaissance Literature**



**Course:** English 10 Honors Medieval and Renaissance Literature

**Text:** C. S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*

**ISBN:** 0060652950



**Background:** This course will guide you through a chronological survey of some of the most influential writers and thinkers in the Medieval and Renaissance eras. We'll spend much of the year looking at Medieval literature, starting with some texts from the early Middle Ages; then we will encounter some later Medieval thinkers, such as Chaucer and Dante. We'll also venture into the Renaissance to enjoy some Shakespeare and finish the year out by dabbling in early Enlightenment thinking by reading Voltaire.

C. S. Lewis was an expert in Medieval and Renaissance literature, and those traditions and worldview impact his writing, both fiction and non-fiction. *The Great Divorce* was heavily influenced by Dante's *Divine Comedy* and represents Lewis's version of a dream journey into the afterlife. In reading this text, you will again encounter the journey narrative that you encountered Honors Ancient Literature, but this time from a Christian worldview. You will see Lewis's commentary on sin, on salvation, and on how to live in this world as preparation for the next world.

**Preparation:** You are expected to read Lewis's text in preparation for a reading assessment during the first week of class and class discussions during the first month of school; please also be prepared to re-read the text as we go through it in class. Feel free to make any notes you wish during your summer reading. Focus on the journey metaphor and note each person that our narrator meets as he travels in the Grey Town, on the bus, and in the Valley of the Shadow. Consider the commentary that Lewis is making about sin, repentance, and redemption in each encounter.

**Assessment:** We will conclude our study of Lewis during the first month of school with a timed, in-class essay. You will be permitted to use his text as well as any notes you have prepared.