***The Divine Comedy***

\*Dante named his epic poem the *Commedia* or *Comedy*.

\*The word *Divina* or *Divine* was added to the title later to show that it was a work rooted in religion.

\**The Divine Comedy* is called a comedy because:

**1.** it is written in the **vernacular** or “**vulgar”** language of

Italian instead of the educated language of Latin. Italian was

the everyday language of the people and not suited for a

tragedy.

**2.** it has a happy ending.

\*Dante the **Poet** is the **writer** of *The Divine Comedy*.

\*Dante the **Pilgrim** is a **character** in *The Divine Comedy*.

*\*The Divine Comedy* is an **allegory**. It has a double meaning – the **literal and symbolic**. In allegory, **every** detail, **every** character, and **every** plot point has an **equivalent** symbolic meaning.

\*Literally – Dante the Pilgrim travels through the three parts of *The Divine Comedy*: the Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise.

\*Symbolically – a human soul who will be saved faces trials, overcomes them, and achieves Paradise.