Vocabulary & Allusions Study Sheet

**The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus**

You are responsible for the following words and allusions.

abjure ambiguity argosy audacious

consistory dalliance infernal grovel

lascivious mercenary necromancy omnipotent

paltry pomp potentate resolute

rudiment syllogism trifle wanton

interdict haughty insolence progenitor

schism anon vermin lubber

costermonger servile rustic gambol

incontinent cozening hapless piecemeal

paramour gramercy surfeit incessant

**Allusions – *You are also responsible for the following allusions:***

**Icarus:** In Greek mythology, a youth who attempted to escape from Crete with wings of wax and feathers but flew so high that his wings melted from the heat of the sun, and he plunged to his death in the sea.

**Oracle of Delphi:** (also known as the Pythia) priestess of the Temple of Apollo widely known for her prophecies.

**Roger Bacon**: an English philosopher and Franciscan friar credited as one of the earliest European advocates of the modern scientific method inspired by the works of Plato and Aristotle.

**Orion**: often referred to as The Hunter, it is one of the most conspicuous and most recognizable constellations in the night sky.

**Elysium**: (also known as the Elysian Fields) was a section of the Underworld that served as the final resting place of the souls of the heroic and the virtuous.

**Homer**: the ancient Greek epic poet, author of the epic poems *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

**Helen of Troy**: the daughter of King Tyndareus, her abduction by Paris brought about the Trojan War. In *Doctor Faustus*, hers is "the face that launched a thousand ships."

**Olympus**: the mountain in Greece regarded as the "home of the gods," specifically of twelve principal gods of the Classical Greek world.

**Jove:** In ancient Roman myth, Jupiter or Jove was the king of the gods, and the god of sky and thunder; nickname for Jupiter.

**Styx**: a river in Greek mythology which formed the boundary between Earth and the Underworld.

**The Council of Trent**: the 16th-century Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church, considered to be one of the Church's most important councils because it was called in response to the Protestant Reformation.

**The Furies**: In *The Iliad*, "those who beneath the earth punish whosoever has sworn a false oath"