



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

ANTHEM

BY AYN RAND



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Written by Peter Boysen

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Critical Reading and Motivation

Objective: Supporting critical reading
Understanding authorial motivation

Activity

The title *Anthem* is part of Ayn Rand's intentional attempts to take the language of religious experience and return it to the realm of the secular. The word *anthem* refers to a religious song of praise. The experience of Equality 7-2521 is, in other words, an extended song praising the virtues of individualism.

Imagine that you are writing a novel about yourself and several of your friends. If you wish, however, you can make the characters, setting, etc., completely fictional. Give the novel a title that is a word or phrase normally charged with religious meaning, and write the first paragraph. This paragraph should contain an opening incident that would relate to the plot of your entire novel.

Sample:

Title: *Justified by Faith*

Lucy tightened her legs around the powerful body of the horse thundering beneath her. It felt strange that, on her left leg, she could not feel anything below her knee; this was her first time riding her horse since getting her prosthetic leg. Her father had cautioned her many times about traveling at this speed because of the difficulty she might have controlling the horse, but as the horse moved faster and faster, a sense of calm came over her, and she and the horse began to gallop as a single unit.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Author's Foreword

Visualization

Objective: Interpreting the text

Activity

Writing about the growth of Communism, Rand writes in her foreword that “[t]hose who want slavery should have the grace to name it by its proper name.”

As this statement demonstrates, Rand’s philosophy is fiercely individualistic. As you read the novel, you will discover that Rand believes that every person should be primarily motivated by self-interest. From the foreword, you can see that she blames many of the world’s problems on excessive governmental control.

Every color and object on a country’s flag has significance. The three colors on the French flag stand for liberty, equality, and brotherhood. The stars on the American flag stand for the individual states, while the stripes stand for the original thirteen colonies.

Imagine the kind of country that Rand would establish. What would the flag look like? Using a piece of standard poster board, make a flag for her country. Prepare a brief oral report explaining the meaning of the colors and symbols you choose.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I**Setting I****Objective:** Understanding setting**Activity**

Setting is the time and place in which the action of a story occurs. Because it is such a foundational element of any story, an author can use a story's setting to subtly communicate ideas. The details of a story's setting can shape the reader's interpretation of many of the characters and events.

Fill in the visual detail chart below. The details are taken from the descriptions of the tunnel, the Home of the Infants, and the Home of the Students. Identify the literal and figurative meanings for each detail. One has been completed for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters II – IV**Critical Reading****Objective:** Supporting critical reading**Activity**

A *chapter summary* is a brief description of what happened in the chapter. An *analysis* is somewhat more complex, examining the events to determine their deeper meaning. Select chapter II, III, or IV and briefly skim over it to refresh your memory. Write either a summary or an analysis of that chapter. You may include important quotes from the text to enrich your writing.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters V – VII**Characterization**

Objectives: Recognizing changes in character
Drawing comparisons

Activity

“We swung our fist through the windowpane, and we leapt out in a ringing rain of glass. We fell, but we never let the box fall from our hands. Then we ran. We ran blindly, and men and houses streaked past us in a torrent without shape. And the road seemed not to be flat before us, but as if it were leaping up to meet us, and we waited for the earth to rise and strike us in the face. But we ran. We knew not where we were going. We knew only that we must run, run to the end of the world, to the end of our days.”

Equality 7-2521's rejection by the Council of Scholars is the turning point of his life. Compare his life before this rejection to his life afterwards, using the Comparison Worksheet. How has Equality 7-2521's personality changed? Support your answers with quotes from the text. Place everything in the proper column on the worksheet.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters VIII – XII

Characterization I

Objective: Understanding characterization

Activity

In any story, characters are often described as *round* or *flat*. A round, or dynamic character is multi-dimensional and will grow and learn lessons over the course of the story. A flat, or static character does not have a well-developed personality and remains almost unchanged throughout the story.

Based on what you've read so far, choose a character from *Anthem* that you would describe as round. Write down one characteristic for your character that fits each of the following categories:

1. Physical Appearance
2. Personality
3. Core Beliefs
4. Something your character would enjoy doing
5. Something your character would hate
6. Similarity between the character and you
7. Difference between the character and you
8. Prediction for the character's future

Take a paper plate and fold it in half, then fold it in half again, then one more time. When you open it up, you should have 8 sections. Using eight different colors, one for each section of the plate, write down answers to each question in a different section.

On the back of the plate, draw an illustration of your character. While Rand does not give much in the way of physical description, use what you know of the character to fill in the gaps.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters VIII – XII**Point of View****Objective:** Understanding point of view**Activity**

In *Anthem*, Equality 7-2521 is telling a story about himself. His viewpoint is subjective; however, many of his statements reflect the views of the author.

Imagine how different the story would be if it were narrated from the perspective of Collective 0-0009 or an unbiased news reporter. Write a page from the perspective of either Collective 0-0009 or a news reporter, detailing the events of the story thus far and giving your reaction. Below are some tips for getting started.

Consider what has happened thus far:

- the discovery of the tunnel
- Equality 7-2521's discovery of love
- Equality 7-2521's finding various tools and supplies
- Equality 7-2521's approaching the Council of Scholars with his invention
- the extensive work that went into establishing the primacy of the candle

Consider one or more of these events from your chosen perspective in writing your paper.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I, II, VIII, and X**Symbolism**

Objective: Understanding symbolism

ActivityComplete the chart for *Anthem*, following the example given for “light.”