

Advanced Placement in
English Literature and Composition

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Anthem

by Ayn Rand

Written by Rebecca Grudzina

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Anthem

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. analyze the use of the first-person character narrator.
2. analyze the diary format as a narrative technique.
3. identify the characteristics of the dystopian novella.
4. recognize the following plot components:
 - exposition
 - conflict
 - rising action
 - climax
 - resolution
5. trace the development of various motifs found in the novella:
 - darkness and light
 - ignorance and knowledge
 - transgression and damnation
6. trace the use and evolution of characters' names and identities in the novella.
7. distinguish between the two philosophical points of view central to this novella, collectivism and objectivism, and point to where and how each is presented.
8. analyze the novella's title and its relationship to the novella's theme.

Anthem

Introductory Lecture

The Author

Ayn Rand was born Alisa Zinov'yevna Rosenbaum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in 1905. She was the eldest of three daughters (Alisa, Natasha, and Nora) of Zinovy Zacharovich Rosenbaum and Anna Borisovna Rosenbaum—agnostic and non-observant Jews. Rand was twelve at the time of the Russian revolution of 1917, and her family life was disrupted by the rise of the Bolshevik party.

She returned to St. Petersburg in 1921 to study at the University of Petrograd, where she encountered the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. The German philosopher's exaltation of the heroic and independent individual, who embraced egoism and rejected altruism, would have a strong impact on Rand's own philosophy.

In February 1926, at the age of 21, she immigrated to the United States, eventually making her way to Hollywood, where she met and married actor Frank O'Connor in 1929. They were married for fifty years, until O'Connor's death.

In 1931, Rand became a naturalized American citizen; she was immensely proud of the United States, saying of her adopted nation, "the United States of America is the greatest, the noblest and, in its original founding principles, the only moral country in the history of the world."

Rand died of heart failure on March 6, 1982, at her 34th Street home in New York City and was buried in the Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, New York.

Anthem

Chapter One

1. What is the mood of the beginning of the novella?

2. What is suspenseful about the opening lines of the narrative?

3. When do we first learn that the narrator is a single individual?

4. What is the immediate effect of discovering that the narrator speaks of himself in the first-person plural?

5. What is suggested by the fact that the speaker's height is considered "evil" by the Teachers and Leaders?

6. What collectivist mantras are presented in this first chapter?

Chapter Two

1. Describe the state of male-female relationships in the society of *Anthem*.

2. What is it that first makes Liberty 5-3000 attractive to the narrator?

3. How do the narrator and Liberty 5-3000 begin their communication? What earlier relationship does this echo?

4. How are future generations of citizens bred for the benefit of the society?

5. What is Eugenics?

6. What has the narrator's personal experience been with the Palace of Mating, and how does he feel about it?

7. As he sits in his tunnel, what does the narrator finally recognize as the word that describes the feeling that is pervasive among him and his brothers? What is the cause of this feeling?

Chapter Three

1. What does the society depicted in *Anthem* believe about truth and knowledge? What does the narrator's discovery prove about the nature of truth?

2. What is the discovery in nature that Equality makes?

Chapter Four

1. What name does the narrator eventually bestow on Liberty 5-3000?

2. What name does she give him? How is this name appropriate?

Chapter Five

1. What emotion do the opening sentences of this chapter convey?

2. What is Equality's first thought after expressing his pride in his invention? How does his reaction illustrate Rand's Objectivism?

3. Equality has just begun to wonder about his appearance?

4. What does the narrator's invention symbolize?

Chapter Six

1. How does the opening of Chapter Six contrast with the closing of Chapter Five?

2. Why does the narrator wait thirty days to escape from the Palace of Corrective Detention?

3. Describe the tone of the end of Chapter Six.

Chapter Seven

1. Contrast the beginning of Chapter Seven with the end of Chapter Six.

2. How does Rand use the candle to ridicule the scholarly achievements of this collectivist society?

3. How does the reaction of the World Council to the narrator's presence expose hypocrisy in this collectivist society's leadership?

4. What is the council's reaction to the narrator's invention? Why is it ironic?

5. Why does the council reject Equality's invention?

6. How does Solidarity 8-1164's rejection of the light box reveal the absurdity of the Scholars' methods?
