



PRESTWICK HOUSE

Activity Pack

THE FOUNTAINHEAD

BY AYN RAND



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Reorder No. 302972
Written by Pete Boysen

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Author****Objective:** Research regarding the author**Activity**

Find out as much as you can about the life and times of the author, Ayn Rand. Focus on the years between 1917 and 1957, since these are the years that formed Rand's attitudes and contained the formulation of her philosophy and her most productive period of writing. You should also include information on the struggles that Rand faced in publishing her works. You will want to find out some information about the Russian Revolution from the time of Lenin to Stalin's ascension to power, as well as the American response to the Russian Revolution between the days of the Red Scare (1918-1919) until the advent of the Cold War. You should write at least four paragraphs.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I**Descriptive Imagery****Objective:** Visualizing descriptive imagery**Activity**

Reread the first few pages of Chapter 1, focusing on the opening description of Howard Roark standing naked on the cliff. Most of Rand's descriptions are designed to further her rhetorical arguments concerning the tenets of objectivism and the primacy of the individual.

Draw an illustration of this opening scene (making sure to keep your drawing appropriate). Use a 9 x 12 sheet of manila paper, and draw either with charcoal, black ink, or pencil.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I**Dialogue**

Objective: Understanding how a character's personality and attitudes are revealed by the author's use of dialogue

Activity

In Chapter 3 of Part I, Peter Keating meets with Guy Francon for the first time. As Keating talks with Francon and others at the firm, what do we learn about Guy Francon? Use the following questions to help:

- Who does the actual work at Francon's firm?
- How much knowledge does Francon have about the day-to-day details of his firm?
- What is revealed about the nature of a successful business owner?
- According to Ayn Rand, would Francon be considered a success or a failure?

Imagine that you are Peter Keating, going in for your first day of work at Francon & Heyer. Write dialogues between yourself and the people that Peter encounters that day. What would you have said that was different? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I**Character Analysis**

Objective: Character analysis, seeing a character from another perspective.

Activity

Throughout Chapters 6-13, Peter Keating and Howard Roark begin to make their own respective ways in the architectural world after graduation. It is fairly clear that Keating may not like Roark, but he certainly honors his opinion, given how often he seeks it out.

But how does Roark feel about Keating? Write a diary entry from his point of view of what his feelings are about Keating, both personally and as an architect.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part II**Theme****Objective:** To identify and analyze examples of theme**Activity**

This activity involves finding elements of the story that ridicule the traditional concept of love in a marriage relationship.

A central tenet of Ayn Rand's objectivism is the idea that the satisfaction of the individual is the highest end. As one might expect, the compromises that are a necessary part of most satisfactory marriages at times stand in complete opposition to the satisfaction of the individual.

In Part II, Dominique marries Peter Keating, even though she loves Howard Roark. Even on her wedding night to Keating, Dominique goes and makes love to Roark.

This sort of love triangle is common fodder for many of the daytime talk shows in our own time. Imagine that you are a talk-show host, and Keating, Roark and Dominique are all coming onto the show as guests to discuss their relationship.

Write the dialogue that would happen on this show. Be sure to delve into the reasons that Keating and Dominique both agreed to enter into their marriage. Examine the beginnings of Roark's relationship with Dominique. Remember, Keating does not know about the affair, and your script should reflect the fact that Keating will be absolutely surprised by this information when Roark and Dominique tell him about it. Be sure to work his reaction to this news into your script.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part III

Theme

Objective: Looking at theme at work in the novel

Activity

One of the main themes of *The Fountainhead* is the importance of reason. Throughout the novel, whenever Dominique, Roark, or Wynand go into detail about the supremacy of the individual, they do not use emotional reasons to support their answers. Rather, they use logic and reason to support why the individual is more important than the group.

In Part III, several events occur in the development of Gail Wynand's character. Identify whether or not each of these events shows the importance of logic, and, if it does show that importance, indicate how.

1. Wynand turned to one of his heroes in journalism to rescue an honest man from false statements published by the *Gazette*.
2. Wynand's first promotion at the *Banner* is to measure whether or not the public would be more sympathetic for a scientist or a murderer's pregnant girlfriend.
3. Wynand refuses to sleep with Dominique the first time she offers herself.
4. Wynand offers the Stoneridge contract and \$250,000 to Keating in exchange for his wife.
5. Wynand named his yacht *I Do*.
6. When Wynand marries Dominique, he wants a quick and private ceremony.
7. Wynand decides to build a beautiful building in Hell's Kitchen.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Debate

Objective: Responding to literature

Activity

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels initially developed the ideas in *The Communist Manifesto* as a response to the massive social inequities that began to appear in the wake of the Industrial Revolution. Those with capital developed industries and sought to derive the maximum profit from each labor unit, no matter what the consequences for those laborers. Working conditions were dreadful. There were no laws covering such ideas as a minimum age, guidelines for child labor, or workplace safety – concepts that we take for granted in our own time. The first Communists sought to create a world in which the worker would labor hard, but also be able to share greatly in the fruits of that labor.

For whatever reason, be it human nature and its concomitant greed, or simple inefficiency, the Communist experiment in Russia did not fulfill the dreams of the early Communist thinkers. The heady days of Lenin and Trotsky soon gave way to the harsh mandates of Joseph Stalin. Middle-class businessmen like Ayn Rand's father lost everything in the drive to nationalize all business and were left paupers. The new power, in the form of the Bolsheviks, was no less confiscatory than the tsars had been.

And so, as a result, Ayn Rand came to believe that joint social effort was not only impossible, but in fact corrosive to the human spirit. The best use of individual abilities, in her opinion, was individual achievement. The only proper use of individual energy, in her opinion, was individual satisfaction.

Form two groups: one that has beliefs similar to those of Rand, and one that has idealistic, socialist beliefs. The two groups should debate as to whether a communal society, where all members contribute to the group's welfare, can thrive over the long term. Focus on the following questions:

- Can people hold power over others and not misuse it?
- Will people work hard if their survival does not depend on it?
- Why did the Soviet Union turn out to be such a disaster for its people?
- What about human nature must change for a communal society to thrive?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Newspaper

Objective: Presenting information in a newspaper article format

Activity

In small groups, write articles for a newspaper. Members of the group can divide up the assignments so that each one contributes to the final project. Select one of the following events from *The Fountainhead*:

- The architectural school's graduation
- Henry Cameron's collapse
- The Sanborn lawsuit against Roark
- The Stoddard lawsuit against Roark
- The destruction of Cortlandt Homes
- Roark's trial for dynamiting the Cortlandt Project
- Wynand's plans to open the Wynand Building in Hell's Kitchen
- The wedding of Wynand and Dominique
- The opening of the Monadnock Valley
- The opening of the Stoddard Home for Subnormal Children

Each group should complete the following three assignments, as directed by your teacher:

1. A news article reporting the events that occurred.
 - There must be an eye-catching headline that sums up the content of the article.
 - The first paragraph should concisely give the basic facts: who, what, where, why, when. This will help a reader who is skimming the article to understand what happened.
 - The following paragraphs should add detail and substance to the story for those readers who want more information about it.
 - The last paragraph should show how the incident ended or was resolved.

Look at the following chart. It has been designed to help you in the writing of your articles. Check it to make sure you have the necessary information.

2. An editorial on the causes or effects of the event.
 - You must create a headline.
 - You need to adopt a point of view you want people to understand.
 - You need to suggest a solution if one is applicable.
3. A letter to the editor *disagreeing* with the editorial.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Theme

Objective: Interpreting the general theme of a novel

Activity

In Part IV, Chapter 18, Roark addresses the courtroom in his trial for destroying the Cortlandt Homes project after his original design had been altered. In his address, he spends a great deal of time discussing the primacy of the individual, which is a central theme in *The Fountainhead*. He says this as part of his defense:

The creators [inventors] were not selfless. It is the whole secret of their power – that it was self-sufficient, self-motivated, self-generated. A first cause, a fount of energy, a life force, a Prime Mover. The creator served nothing and no one. He had lived for himself. And only by living for himself was he able to achieve the things which are the glory of mankind. Such is the nature of achievement.

In an essay, consider the following questions:

- Is Howard Roark correct when he asserts that self-centeredness is a requirement for making glorious achievements?
- What events from the novel support Roark's claims? Are there any events that contradict his claims?
- What events from your own personal experience or reading support and/or contradict his claims?