

Anthem by Ayn Rand
Independent Guided Reading
Novel Unit
GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

1. Explain all the ways in which Equality 7-2521 states that he is different from everyone else.
2. Equality 7-2521 states that it is very unusual for men to reach the age of 45. Offer several possible explanations as to why life expectancy is so short in this society.
3. Why does the Council of Vocations assign Equality 7-2521 the job of street sweeper? Is it due to an error, incompetence, or a more sinister motive?
4. Does the novel take place in the past, present, or future? How do you know?
5. Why do the teachers of Equality 7-2521 disapprove of his quick mind?
6. At this point in the novel does Equality 7-2521 accept the teachings of his society? If so, why doesn't he feel shame or remorse when he knows he's committed a crime?
7. Equality 7-2521 frequently mentions a "curse". What do you think his "curse" is?

CHAPTER 2

8. Re-read the account of Liberty 5-3000 on pages 38 and 39. What character traits are revealed in this description?
9. List 3 examples of how this society tries to wipe out each individual's mind (and self) by squashing personal choices, desires, and values. (List page numbers where information is found.)
10. Contrast Equality 7-2521 with the rest of the men living in this society (page 46). How is he different? Be specific.
11. Explain why fear is the most prevalent emotion in this society.
12. What word is Equality 7-2521 trying to capture on page 49?
13. Why is mentioning this word the only crime punishable by death in this society? How does this word contradict the ideals of this society?

CHAPTER 3-4

14. What does Equality discover in this chapter? How important is this discovery?
15. Why is Equality frustrated with the Council of Scholars beliefs?
16. Why does Equality fight against them?
17. What name does Liberty 5-3000 choose for Equality? Why is it appropriate?
18. When Liberty 5-3000 brings water to Equality and he drinks it, what emotion is he feeling? Why doesn't he understand what he's feeling?

CHAPTERS 5-6

19. Describe the emotion that Equality is feeling at the beginning of Chapter 5.
20. Discuss Equality's main motivation for creating his new invention.
21. Discuss why Equality is so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel. Discuss the emotion he is feeling.

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22. What does Equality expect will happen if he shows his discovery to the Council?
23. Discuss why the Prisoners never think to escape from the palace of corrective detentions.

CHAPTER 7

24. Explain what Equality means when he says, "We are old now, yet we were young this morning".
25. List 4 reasons why the council rejects Equality's invention.
26. What are the real reasons behind the rejection and the fear of the gift?

CHAPTER 8-9

27. What is Equality experiencing for the first time this morning? How does he feel as a result of this experience?
28. Why does Equality laugh when he realizes he is the damned?
29. What does the uncharted forest symbolize in *Anthem*?
30. Does Equality have to worry about being followed by the others? Explain.
31. Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy to what he now believes.

CHAPTERS 10-11

32. Describe the house and its contents and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.
34. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter?
35. Explain what the following quotes mean in your own words and discuss how they can be applied to your life:
 - a. "whatever the road I take, the guiding star is within me"
 - b. "for the word "we" must never be spoken, save by one's choice and as second thought"
36. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?
37. In what ways is "I" like a God? Explain.
38. Re-read the incident with the story of the pyre (page 50). What was he trying to communicate with Equality?

CHAPTER 12

39. Why do the characters take the new names of Prometheus and Gaea?
40. Discuss why they weren't allowed to choose their own names in their old society?
41. Discuss what Prometheus plans to do in the future and how this is different from his old society.
42. Prometheus realizes that to be free a man he must be free of his brothers (page 101). List 2-3 examples from *Anthem* that illustrate the truth of this statement.

Important Due Dates

- 1/7/16: Chapters 1 and 2 Quiz**
- 1/8/16: Chapters 3, 4, 6 Quiz**
- 1/12/16: Chapters 7-9 Quiz**
- 1/13/16: Chapters 10-12 Quiz**
- 1/13/16: Research Rough Draft due**
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CHAPTER 1

1. Explain all the ways in which Equality 7-2521 states that he is different from everyone else. He is taller than everyone else. He learns more quickly; fought with his brothers and was locked in the cellar; his intellect was superior to his teachers'; he was punished more often; he preferred certain types of work and lessons over others; didn't listen to history lessons, but loved science; wished to learn and asked many questions;
2. The average man lives only to the age of 45. Offer several possible explanations as to why life expectancy is so short in this society. Likely because they are bored, miserable and lack stimulation and happiness. They have no reason to live. No relationships or family to live for.
3. Why does the Council of Vocations assign Equality 7-2521 the job of street sweeper? Is it due to an error, incompetence, or a more sinister motive? The teachers had probably warned that he was a trouble-maker (smart, curious, questions things) so they assigned him a street sweeper job to keep him in line.
4. Does the novel take place in the past, present, or future? How do you know? Future: "Unmentionable Times when wagons moved without horses and lights which burned without flame (modern society)."
5. Why do the teachers of Equality 7-2521 disapprove of his quick mind? He is smarter than his teachers and grasps things quickly. This is a sin. "great sin to be born with a head that is too quick"
6. At this point in the novel does Equality 7-2521 accept the teachings of his society? If so, why doesn't he feel shame or remorse when he knows he's committed a crime? He has a burning desire to learn and enjoys learning. Therefore, he feels no guilt and is willing to be punished for his transgression because it makes him happy.
7. Equality 7-2521 frequently mentions a "curse". What do you think his "curse" is? Curiosity—the need to learn and know and form relationships. Pg. 29 "the cursed wish to know"

CHAPTER 2

1. Re-read the account of Liberty 5-3000 on pages 38 and 39. What character traits are revealed in this description? She seems fearless and cocky, her hair flies as if it "defied men to restrain it". She throws seeds to the ground as if they were flinging food to beggars under her feet. She seems cocky and arrogant.
2. List 3 examples of how this society tries to wipe out each individual's mind (and self) by squashing personal choices, desires, and values. (List page numbers where information is found.) Dare not speak their own thoughts; all must be happy; no choice of mate;
3. Contrast Equality 7-2521 with the rest of the men living in this society (page 46) How is he different? Be specific.

4. Explain why fear is the most prevalent emotion in this society. The society is built on the premise of fear. They fear that if they do not obey laws they will be punished. They fear punishment for not following the rules. They have no choices and are not allowed to speak their minds, and they fear they may do all these things. The people are viciously punished for sins and transgressions (burned alive, beaten, etc.)
5. What word is Equality 7-2521 trying to capture on page 49? The word is "I"
6. Why is mentioning this word the only crime punishable by death in this society? How does this word contradict the ideals of this society? Because if one person sees himself as an individual, the entire society would break down and the elders cannot risk such a thing.

CHAPTER 3-4

1. What does Equality discover in this chapter? How important is this discovery? He has discovered electricity. Hugely important, because now he knows that one can person CAN know more or possess greater wisdom than the scholars combined. This goes against everything he's been taught.
2. Why is Equality frustrated with the Council of Scholars beliefs? Because he knows they are wrong and that society is missing out on great things because the council forbids learning and growing.
3. Why does Equality fight against them? Because he derives joy and happiness from what he's doing and he doesn't understand why they would deny people both that joy and the wonderful discoveries that can be made.
4. What name does Liberty 5-3000 choose for Equality? Why is it appropriate? The Unconquered. This is appropriate because he has not been forced into the thought and behavior mold of the council. He rebels against it like Liberty 5-3000.
5. When Liberty 5-3000 brings water to Equality and he drinks it, what emotion is he feeling? Why doesn't he understand what he's feeling? He is feeling love and passion, but he doesn't understand the feeling because he's never experienced it.

CHAPTERS 5-6

1. Describe the emotion that Equality is feeling at the beginning of Chapter 5. Personal pride in an individual accomplishment.
2. Discuss Equality's main motivation for creating his new invention. He wants to make a contribution to his society.
3. Discuss why Equality is so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel. Discuss the emotion he is feeling. He suddenly feels like (and enjoys) being an individual who is different from everyone else. He is feeling personal pride in being different from everyone else.

4. What does Equality expect will happen if he shows his discovery to the Council? **First he thinks they will see, understand and forgive, but then he realizes that they will just punish him for his crime of working alone.**
5. Discuss why the Prisoners never think to escape from the palace of corrective detentions. **Because they are punished so brutally and severely that they have no desire to escape. Their lives depend on conforming to the rules. Fear keeps them under control.**

CHAPTER 7

1. Explain what Equality means when he says, “We are old now, yet we were young this morning.” **Because he has learned so much that he feels older and wiser. He knows now that the Council does not know everything.**
2. List 4 reasons why the council rejects Equality’s invention. **He broke the laws; he boasted of his knowledge and discovery; he thought he knew more than his brothers; how dare he go against the Council’s belief that he be a street sweeper and try to do something other than that; what is not thought by all men cannot be true; what is not done collectively cannot be good.**
3. What are the real reasons behind the rejection and the fear of the gift? **It is not their goal to make the lives of men easier. Also, they cannot accept the accomplishment of one person. It goes against everything their society believes in. Also, it would cause a complete breakdown in law and order.**

CHAPTER 8-9

1. What is Equality experiencing for the first time this morning? How does he feel as a result of this experience? **The freedom of making his own choices and decisions. He is dancing around and laughing and experiencing a new sense of enjoyment and control over his own life.**
2. Why does Equality laugh when he realizes he is the dammed? **He laughs because he’s supposedly the one who is wrong, yet for the first time he feels happiness, excitement and freedom to be himself. He should be fearful and lonely, but he understands that he’s the one who has the better end of the deal.**
3. What does the uncharted forest symbolize in *Anthem*? **Opportunity for growth, change, and personal freedom.**
4. Does Equality have to worry about being followed by the others? Explain. **No, because the people have been brainwashed to believe that the Uncharted Forest is dangerous and that no one ever returns from there. The Council will not follow him because they feel confident that he will not return.**
6. Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy to what he now believes. **They thought that anything that comes from one and not many was evil, but it’s not. They never questioned the laws that ruled their lives, but now they do. They never felt personal joy or happiness, but didn’t miss it because they’d never had it. Now they know personal joy is best. They toiled and worked only for the good of others—never for their own satisfaction; now they know personal toil brings its own satisfaction.**

CHAPTERS 10-11

1. Describe the house and its contents and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique. They have only lived in institutionalized settings (hundreds to one room). **They think the rooms are “small” and could only hold 12 people (the house must be HUGE). There are many windows (more window than wall) and walls are made on concrete which is why they can’t understand why the windows hold the walls up. There are full walls of mirrors and light fixtures everywhere. They are surprised to discover that not everyone dressed alike (like their white tunics) but wear a variety of different clothes in many colors. They realize after finding only two beds that the house is for two people. They also find bookcases filled with hardback books.**
2. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter? **That they have a chance at a future of happiness and knowledge to look forward to. So much to learn and do. That they have a purpose.**
3. Explain what the following quotes mean in your own words and discuss how they can be applied to your life:
 - a. “whatever the road I take, the guiding star is within me” **I am in charge of my own choices, my own destiny, and of choosing what makes me happy. No one else can decide these things for me.**
 - b. “for the word “we” must never be spoken, save by one’s choice and as second thought” **That we must demand and fight for what we believe in. We must be allowed to be individuals with our own thoughts, beliefs and ideas. We must never allow anyone else to force us to be what we’re not.**
4. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life? **To make his own choices, and choose his own friends, rule is own life, find his own joy and freedom and be his own master.**
5. In what ways is “I” like a God? Explain. **That we must rule and be in charge of only ourselves. We must make our own choices and our own mistakes. We cannot exist as a group. We are better when we are different and everyone contributes their best to the group. Be the master of your own life.**
6. Re-read the incident with the story of the pyre (page 50). What was he trying to communicate with Equality? **He was trying to tell Equality to follow his heart and go with his feelings and beliefs; that he was right to think independently even if it meant death.**

CHAPTER 12

1. Why do the characters take the new names of Prometheus and Gaea? **Prometheus was the god who was entrusted with the task of molding mankind out of clay. His attempts to better the lives of his creation brought him into direct conflict with Zeus. First, he tricked the gods out of the best portion of the sacrificial feast, acquiring the meat for the feasting of man. When Zeus withheld fire, Prometheus stole it from heaven and delivered it to mortal-kind hidden inside a fennel stalk. Gaea emerged at the dawn of creation, along with air, sea and sky. She was the great mother of all : the heavenly gods were descended from her union with Ouranos (the sky), the sea-gods from her union with Pontos (the sea), the Gigantes from her mating with Tartaros (the hell-pit) and**

mortal creatures were sprung or born from her earthy flesh. In mythology, Gaea appears as the prime opponent of the heavenly gods.

2. Discuss why they weren't allowed to choose their own names in their old society? **Choosing names set them apart as individuals and distinguish them from each other.**
3. Discuss what Prometheus plans to do in the future and how this is different from his old society. **He will live alone with Gaea in his own home (not in a group home), work with his own two hands for himself (not for others), he will learn from books and rebuild achievements from the past, and he will use his mind. He will return to the city and convince some of his old friends to join him and write a new history.**
4. Prometheus realizes that to be free a man he must be free of his brothers (page 101). List 2-3 examples from *Anthem* that illustrate the truth of this statement. **Man has certain rights that no one can take away. The right to choose, learn, discover, feel happiness. No one can tell you which job is right for you; no one can tell you how to learn or how much to learn; no one can stop you from enjoying pride or discovery or curiosity. No one can tell you who to pick for your friends or loved one. No one can tell you how to act or what to think.**

