

## *Anthem* – by Ayn Rand Guided Reading Questions

The following questions should be answered using complete sentences. All answers should be written in pen (or typed) and on a separate sheet of paper.

### CHAPTER 1

1. 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.
2. Clearly Rand wants Equality 7-2521 to stand out from his brothers. Explain how Rand does this by contrasting Equality's physical characteristics to those of his fellow man.
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? Provide examples to support your statement.
4. Does the novel take place in the past, present, or future? How do you know? Use evidence from the text to support your statement.
5. Why do Equality 7-2521's teachers 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? Use textual evidence to support your statement.

### CHAPTER 2

1. Re-read the account of Liberty 5-3000 on pg. 38. What character traits are revealed in this description?
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 pg. #'s for easy reference.
3. Contrast Equality 7-2521 with the rest of the men living in this society (pg. 46). How is he different? Be specific.
4. Why is fear the most prevalent emotion in this society?
5. What word is Equality 7-2521 trying to capture on pg. 49?
7. Why is mentioning this word the only crime punishable by death in this society? How does this word contradict the ideals of this society? What could this discovery lead to? Why are the elders so afraid?

### CHAPTER 3-4

1. What does Equality discover in this chapter? How important is this discovery?
2. Describe 4-5 changes that would help society and make life easier or more enjoyable.
3. Why is Equality frustrated with the Council of Scholars' beliefs?
4. Why does Equality fight against them?
5. Why does Equality choose a new name?
6. What is the name and is it appropriate? Explain.

### CHAPTERS 5-6

1. What do you think Equality's main motivation is for creating his new invention?
2. Why is Equality so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel? What emotion is he feeling?
3. Why is it that Prisoners never think to escape from the Palace of Corrective Detentions?

### CHAPTER 7

1. List 4 reasons why the council rejects Equality's invention.
2. What are the real reasons behind the rejection and the fear of the gift?
3. What is meant by Equality's statement, "We are old now, but we are young this morning" (pg. 68).

### CHAPTER 8-9

1. What is Equality experiencing for the first time this morning? How does he feel as a result of this experience? How do you know? Use evidence to support your statement.
2. Why does Equality laugh when he realizes he is the damned?
3. What does the Uncharted Forest symbolize in *Anthem*?
4. Does Equality have to worry about being followed by the others? Explain.
5. 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

1. Describe the house and its contents, and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.
2. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter?
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"
  - b. "For the word "we" must never be spoken, save by one's choice and as second thought"
3. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?
4. In what ways is "I" like a God? Explain.
5. Re-read the incident with the story of the pyre (pg. 50). What was he trying to communicate with Equality?

### CHAPTERS 12

1. Why do the characters take the new names of Prometheus and Gaea?
2. Why weren't they allowed to choose their own names in their old society?
3. What does Prometheus plan to do in the future? How is this any different from his old society?
4. Prometheus realizes that to be free a man he must be free of his brothers (pg. 101). List 2-3 examples from *Anthem* that illustrate the truth of this statement.

