

Anthem

By Ayn Rand

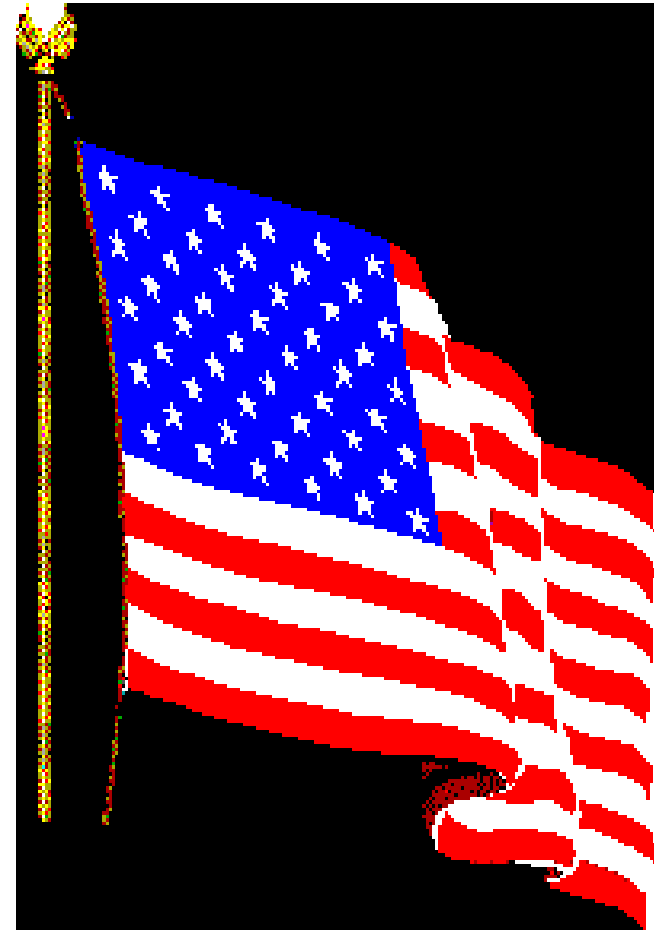
Who is Ayn Rand?

- Born:
February 2, 1905
- City:
St. Petersburg,
Russia



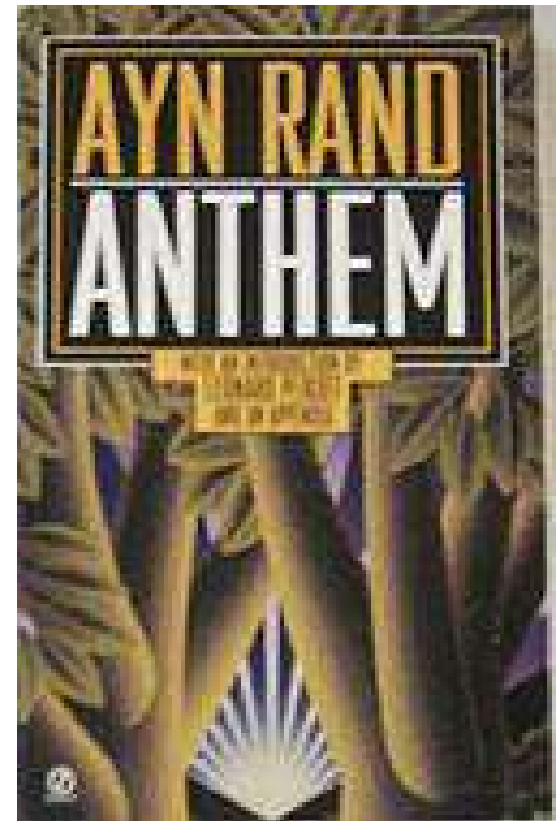
What's Going on in Russia?

- Rand opposed communism
- Believed in the rights of the individual
- Despised the collectivist society of Russia
- Took America as her notion of an ideal society



Anthem

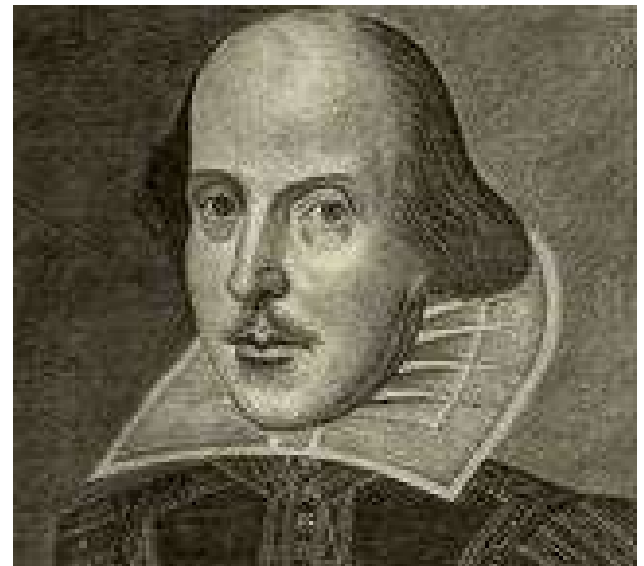
- Rand wrote *Anthem* in 1937, after moving to America
- *Anthem* is a **novella**, meaning it is shorter and less complex than a novel, but longer and more complicated than a short story.



Anthem

Let's talk for a minute!

How does culture affect literature?



Themes Within *Anthem*

Four major themes that we will discuss as we read *Anthem*:

- collectivism
- Individualism
- conformity
- equality

Collectivism vs. Individualism

- **Collectivism** – the overthrow of the individual to the group – whether to a race, class, or state does not matter. In *Anthem*, Ayn Rand will present a collectivist society that is stagnant and primitive, and the word "I" is obsolete.

The individual . . .

- is owned by the group
- has no right to a private existence
- has no right to lead his own life, pursue his own happiness, or use his own property
- exists only as part of the group

Collectivism vs. Individualism

- **Individualism/Objectivism** – regards every man as an independent, sovereign entity who possesses an inalienable right to his own life, a right derived from his nature as a rational being. Individualism does not mean that one can do whatever he feels like doing; it means that every man or woman is an individual and has the same rights.

The individual . . .

- has rights
- will not run anyone else's life, nor let anyone run theirs
- will not rule or be ruled
- will not be a master nor a slave
- will not sacrifice themselves to anyone, nor sacrifice anyone to themselves

Themes Within *Anthem*

A great example of **collectivism** would be participating on a team. When you think of the Boston Red Sox, you think of a group of people, working together, for one common purpose.



Themes Within *Anthem*

- The theme of **conformity** is closely related to the theme of individuality.
- According the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, to **conform** means to be similar or identical, or to be obedient or compliant.

Themes Within *Anthem*

An example of **conformity** would be school uniforms.



Themes Within *Anthem*

Equality is the final theme within *Anthem* that we will discuss. **Equality** occurs when things are like (the same) in status, quality, nature, etc.

Our main character in *Anthem* is named Equality7-2521. Before even reading this book, what might this tell us about his society? Are people in collectivist societies truly equal?

Literary Elements in *Anthem*

■ Motif:

A recurrent device, formula, or situation that often serves as a signal for the appearance of a character or event. ..a reoccurring theme.

The following motifs are present in *Anthem*.

⑩ The use of *darkness* and *light*

⑩ The presence of *ignorance* and *knowledge*

⑩ The idea of *transgression* and *damnation*

Rhetorical Devices in *Anthem*

A *rhetorical device* is a use of language that is intended to have an effect on its audience. Repetition, figurative language, and even rhetorical questions are all examples of *rhetorical devices*.

- **Antithesis** - literal meaning opposite, is a rhetorical device in which two opposite ideas are put together in a sentence for achieving a contrasting effect.

Examples:

- Speech is silver, but silence is gold.
- Money is the root of all evils: poverty is the fruit of all goodness.
- You are easy on the eyes, but hard on the heart.

Rhetorical Devices in *Anthem*

- **Epistrophe** (e-pis-tro-pee) is the repetition of the same word or groups of words at the ends of successive clauses.
- The prefix “epi” can mean different things : “attached to,” “along,” “beside,” “outer,” or “end.” Just as an “epilogue” is the concluding section at the end of a literary text, “epistrophe” is a repetition of words at the end of clauses.
- **Example:** “The forest has no end and we seek no end” (84).

Indirect Characterization

Create a chart like below and find examples of indirect characterization of the characters Equality 7-2521 and Liberty 5-3000.

Types of Indirect Characterization	Cited text evidence	Explanation
Speech		
Thoughts		
Effects on others		
Actions		
Looks		

Works Cited

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