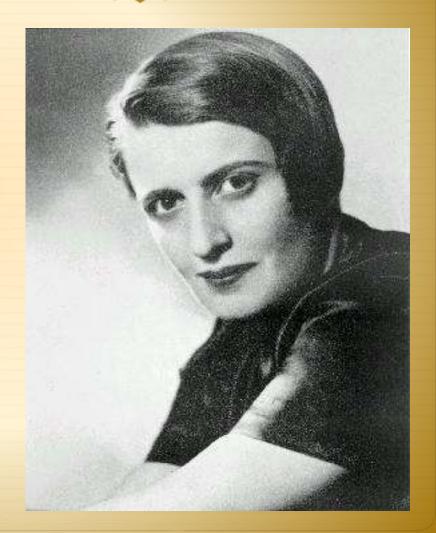
# ANTHEM by Ayn Rand

Biography, Themes, Literary Elements

## Ayn Rand

✤ Ayn rhymes with "mine"

- Born February 2, 1905 in St. Petersburg, Russia
- A Russian-American novelist
- Studied history and philosophy at the University of Petrograd



### Ayn Rand

- Known for works such as
  - ♦ The Fountainhead

### Ayn Rand

- ✤ Left her home in Russia for the United States.
- Rand's hatred of the communism in Russia inspired her novella Anthem
- Rand believed in the rights of the individual and despised the communistic society of Russia.

#### Anthem

- Anthem is a novella: shorter and less complex than a novel; longer and more complicated than a short story.
- Rand wrote Anthem in 1937 after moving to America
- Rand saw America as an ideal society



## Anthem Themes

✤ Five major themes for Anthem:

- ✤ Collectivism
- ✤ Individualism
- ✤ Conformity
- ✤ Equality
- ✤ Love

### Theme: Collectivism

- Collectivism: emphasis on collective rather than individual action or identity.
- The protagonist in Anthem lives in is a collectivist society.

# Theme: Collectivism

- A great example of collectivism would be participating on a team.
- The New York Yankees, represent a group of people, working together, for one common purpose.



# Collectivism

#### With collectivism, 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

#### Theme: Individualism

- Individualism is the opposite of collectivism.
- Individualism focuses on individual action and identity.
- The main character in Anthem, Equality 7-2521, decides to rise against his society and claim his individuality.

# Individualism

#### With individualism, 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

#### Theme: Individualism

 Individuality is the theme of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way"

I'm beautiful in my way, 'Cause God makes no mistakes. I'm on the right track, baby I was born this way. Don't hide yourself in regret, Just love yourself and you're set. I'm on the right track, baby. I was born this way

#### Theme: Conformity

- Conformity is closely related to the theme of individuality.
- According the the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, to conform means to be similar or identical, or to be obedient or compliant.
- In Anthem, Equality 7-2521 is expected to conform to society, but he goes against those expectations.

# Conformity

School uniforms are an example of conformity.



# Theme: Equality

Equality occurs when things are like (or the same) in status, quality, nature, etc.

- The protagonist in *Anthem* is named Equality 7-2521.
- Before reading this book, what might this tell us about his society? Are people in collectivist societies truly equal?

## Literary Elements

#### 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*.
The use of *darkness* and *light*The presence of *ignorance* and *knowledge*The idea of *transgression* and *punishment*

# Literary Elements

- Rhetorical Devices: 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.

# Literary Devices

Antithesis – a rhetorical device literally meaning "opposite," in which two opposite ideas are put together in a sentence to achieve 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.

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