***Anthem –* by Ayn Rand**

**Guided Reading Questions**

**The following questions should be answered using complete sentences. All answers should be written in pen and on a separate sheet of paper. When writing your answers, try to find textual evidence (quotations from the novel) that support your conclusions. Include those quotations in your answers.**

**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

Equalities 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 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 access.

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 ways in which it 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 dammed?

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 is 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

illustrates the truth of this statement.