**ANTHEM**

Throughout this term we will be reading *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. You will be reading this primarily on your own with 3 reading checks and final project due at the end of the term.

Chapters One through Four: Due Monday November 5, 2018 (B) or Tuesday November 6, 2018 (A)

Chapters Five through Eight: Due Monday November 19, 2018 (B) or Tuesday November 20, 2018 (A)

Chapters Nine through Twelve: Due Monday December 3, 2018 (A) or Tuesday December 4, 2018 (B)

Final Writing Project: Due Monday December 10, 2018 (B) or Tuesday December 11, 2018 (A)

\*Do not procrastinate, stay caught up. The Discussion questions are due on each of the due dates, have them completed and ready to turn in at the beginning of class. Be ready to discuss the novel as a class on the above dates as well.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**CHAPTERS ONE THROUGH FOUR**

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. In a well-organized paragraph, describe the society in which Anthem is set. Some areas to consider are the political structure, degree of technology, social relationships, quality of life, and education. Would you want to live in this society? Explain why or why not.
2. Clearly, Ayn Rand intended Equality to stand out from his “brothers.” Explain how she accomplishes this by contrasting Equality’s physical qualities and character traits with those of his fellow men.
3. When does this novel take place—in the past, the present or the future? How do you know?
4. At this point in the novel, does Equality accept the moral teachings of his society? If so, why doesn’t he feel shame or remorse when he knows that he’s committing a crime? Find textual evidence to support your answer.
5. Reread the account of Liberty 5-3000 on page 38. What character traits are revealed in this brief description?
6. Find several examples of the ways in which this society tries to obliterate each individual’s mind (and self) by quashing personal choices, desires and values.
7. What word is Equality struggling to recapture on page 49? In your opinion, 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 its rediscovery possibly lead to?
8. What does Equality discover in this chapter? How important is this discovery? Describe four or five ways in which it would help society, and make life easier or more enjoyable.
9. Discuss the appropriateness of Equality’s new name, “Unconquered.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**CHAPTERS FIVE THROUGH EIGHT**

1. Equality understands that his invention will benefit mankind greatly; however, this was not his main motivation in conducting his experiments, and it is not the primary source of the great joy he experiences. Discuss.
2. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicate that prisoners never tried to escape. Why not?
3. What are the real reasons behind the Council’s rejection and fear of the gift?
4. Explain why Equality laughs when he remembers that he is “the Damned.”
5. What does the Uncharted Forest symbolize in Anthem?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**CHAPTER NINE THROUGH TWELVE**

1. In this chapter, Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil and joy with what he now believes.
2. Describe the house and its contents in your own words, and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.
3. What great discovery does Equality make in Chapter 11?
4. Explain the following quotes in your own words, and discuss how they can be applied to your life:
5. “Whatever road I take, the guiding star is within me.”
6. “For the word ‘We’ must never be spoken, save by one’s choice and as a second thought.”
7. In what ways is “I” like a god?
8. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?
9. Reread the incident with the Saint of the Pyre (p. 50). What was he trying to communicate to Equality?
10. Why do the main characters take the names Prometheus and Gaea? Why weren’t they allowed to choose their names in their old society?
11. What does Prometheus plan to do in the future?
12. Prometheus reaches the important realization that “To be free, a man must be free of his brothers” (p. 101). Cite several examples from Anthem that illustrate the truth of this statement.