

## **2023 Summer Reading Assignment 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Honors**

### Why do we have a summer reading assignment?

The key to being a great reader is to read extensively, and the key to being a great writer is exposure to great writing. Reading is not something we want you to do just during the school year; life-long learners are also life-long readers. Research clearly shows that students who do not read over the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress, and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect. Further, summer provides time to enjoy uninterrupted reading and allows students to digest ideas prior to discussing and interpreting ideas in class.

### The Novel

#### ***Anthem* by Ayn Rand**

### Why has my teacher chosen this novel?

***Anthem* is a dystopian fiction novella by Ayn Rand, written in 1937 and first published in 1938 in the United Kingdom. The story takes place at an unspecified future date when mankind has entered another Dark Age. Technological advancement is now carefully planned, and the concept of individuality has been eliminated. A young man known as Equality 7-2521 rebels by doing secret scientific research. When his activity is discovered, he flees into the wilderness with the girl he loves. Together they plan to establish a new society based on rediscovered individualism.**

### The Assignment

Step 1: Read and enjoy the novel!

Step 2: Annotate the Text (this will take time, do not start the night before all is due)

### How will I be graded on this assignment?

-Your novel will be checked for annotation; the other assessment will be your contributions to discussion and a summative test. Annotating the text will help you reference characters, themes, symbols and motifs more effectively and efficiently.

### When is the assignment due?

The novel and annotations should be completed by **the first day of school**. There will be additional class assignments that connect to *Anthem* your annotations.

## **Annotating Text**

As you are reading, you should also annotate the text in your book. Annotating the text is a powerful strategy to comprehend literature; it will not only help you actively read, but it will also aid in your discussion participation and literary analysis skills.

## **ANNOTATION GUIDE**

Inside front cover: Keep a character list with a small space for character summary and page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

Inside back cover: Make note of your thoughts about themes, allusions, imagery, motifs, key scenes, etc. *List page numbers/references as you read!*

Chapter Summaries: Make sure to summarize the chapters either at the beginning of each chapter or the end. This should be a 3 or 4 sentence summary of the plot in that chapter.

Underline: As you read, underline, or highlight, anything that strikes you as memorable or significant. When you mark something in the text, **you should also write something in the margin to remind yourself why you marked it in the first place.**

### What makes a moment significant?

That's up to you as a reader/interpreter/thinker. If you are stuck, consider moments that:

- reveal a truth about a character, the theme of the novel, or life in general.
- indicate a major change in the character, tone, plot, etc.
- demonstrate the writer's craft (consider major literary devices).
- strike a chord in you or grab your attention, for whatever reason.

Circle Vocabulary: Circle words 4 words per chapter that are unfamiliar to you or that strike you as unusual. Look up words that seem essential to an understanding of the meaning or the sense of the author. Write a synonym in the margin next to the circled word.

Questions: Actively engage the text by writing at least 1-2 open-ended questions for each chapter of the book. Also, any question that pops up in your head as you read, write it in the margins.

## **SOCRATIC SEMINAR QUESTIONS**

Please answer the following questions using textual evidence to support your answers. You should cite the text in MLA format under each answer. You may type or hand write your responses. Your responses will be taken up for a quiz grade the first week of school.

1. Describe Equality's physical appearance and why you feel Ayn Rand chose to write the protagonist this way.
2. Compare the Home of the Infants, the Home of the Students, and the Home of the Street Sweepers. Is one superior to the other? Is one considered more intelligent or "all-knowing"?
3. Why are friends forbidden? How does this concept relate to a dystopia?
4. Why does Equality feel no shame in committing his crime?
5. What do you believe Equality means when he says, "They"?
6. What is the Time of Mating? Why does Equality think of being sent to the Palace of Mating as being a "shameful matter"?
7. What is a Transgression of Preference? How did Equality commit such a transgression or transgressions?
8. What are the Unmentionable Times? Why do you believe Ayn Rand called this period the unmentionable times instead of simply "the past"?
9. What is the punishment for speaking the Unspeakable Word? How does this punishment relate to biblical concepts?
10. What has Equality discovered in the novel and what has he learned from it?
11. Why does Equality think that the Council of Scholars is blind?
12. A euphemism is defined as "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant; also: the expression so substituted" For example, Equality is not assigned a job; he is given a "Life Mandate". What other euphemisms have you discovered in this book?
13. What name has Liberty given to Equality? Do you think that the name is appropriate? Why or why not?
14. What is the World Council of Scholars and why is it significant?
15. What else does Equality discover in the Forest? How does this further his relationship with Liberty?
16. What does Equality mean when he says, " We are old now, yet we were young this morning . . .?"
17. When Ayn Rand writes, "for their eyes were still, and small, and evil," what does she really mean? How do you know this?
18. Explain the importance of the following statement: "There is no danger in solitude."
19. "I am. I think. I will" What is the significance of those words? Explain fully.
20. What is the sacred word and why is it so important?
21. What did Equality learn about slavery and freedom? Why did men give up their freedom once they earned it?
22. How can Equality learn so much in the House in the Forest?
23. What name does he choose for himself and why?