

Incoming Freshmen Honors Summer Reading Requirements 2017

There are two reading requirements for incoming freshmen taking Honors Introduction to Literature. One is Ayn Rand's *Anthem*; the second is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. In the following document, there are reading guides and various activities. Please read all directions carefully.

All work will be handed in on August 28, 2017. All work must be typed using Times New Roman text, 12 pt. font and double spacing. A heading should appear at the top of the first page and be formatted as indicated below. A title should follow, centered on the next line and contain the information necessary to determine which activity follows.

Student first and last name
Mrs. Euclide
Introduction to Literature 109-01
30 August 2017

Your required work (to be handed into me) should include the following:

Anthem:

Reading Guide : answers must be typed/Chpt #s included
Artifact (see Anthem information)
Explanation

The Book Thief:

Reading Guide: answers must be typed/thematic topic noted
Collage on a half piece of poster board. This must be accompanied by an explanation. Please do ensure that your name is on the back of the collage.

***Anthem* Ayn Rand**

Background

Ayn Rand was born in Russian and immigrated to the United States in the early twentieth century. *Anthem* was written in 1937 and it details the essence of collectivism. It presents a society where individualism, where the word "I," no longer exists. It is a story of the horrors of a time where the individual is swallowed by the collective, but it is also a story of the triumph of the human spirit, of the piece of humanity that will forever cling to the idea that each individual has a voice that matters.

Background

Utopias and Anti-Utopias: This type of fiction is called "anti-utopian" meaning that the world is presented as it should *not* be. Anti-Utopian novels present collectivism as the worst-possible society. The society is presented as tyrannical yet has a highly technological economy, a combination that Rand did not believe possible. She believed that economic progress depends

upon freedom, that the free mind is the source of technology, prosperity and progress. Her collectivist society is stagnant and primitive.

Reading Guide

When the story begins, sometime in the distant future, the hero (known as Equality 7-2521) is a young man in his late teens or early twenties. Speaking in first person plural (*Anthem* is his diary), he describes his society and his attitude towards it.

This guide will help you with recall when you return to school in August. This will also provide us with a base to start class discussion.

Chapter 1

1. Describe the society in which Equality-7-2521 lives. Consider the political structure, technology, social relationships, quality of life and education.
2. Equality states that it is very unusual for men to reach the age of 45. Why?
3. Why does the Council of Vocations assign Equality 7-2521 the job of street sweeper? Is it due to error, incompetence or a more sinister motivation? Explain.

Chapter 2

4. Of the whole range of feelings possible to man, why is fear the prevalent emotion in this society?
5. Explain the following: the Great Truth; the Unmentionable Times; the Uncharted Forest; the Evil Ones; the Great Rebirth.
6. What word is Equality struggling to recapture? 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?

Chapter 3

7. What does Equality discover in this chapter? How important is this discovery? Describe four to five ways in which it would help society, and make life easier or more enjoyable.
8. Outline some of the Council of Scholar's beliefs, and Equality's refutation of those beliefs.

Chapter 4

9. Discuss the appropriateness of Equality's new name, "Unconquered."

Chapter 5

10. 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 this fact.
11. In your opinion, why is Equality so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel? What emotion is he feeling?

Chapter 6

12. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicates that prisoners never tried to escape. Why not?

Chapter 7

13. Outline four of the Council's reasons for rejecting Equality's invention.
14. What are the real reasons behind the Council's rejection and fear of the gift?
15. What does Equality mean when he says at the beginning of the chapter, "We are old now, but we were young this morning"?

Chapter 8

16. What is Equality experiencing for the first time in this chapter, and what does he feel as a result?
17. Explain why Equality laughs when he remembers that is the "The Damned."
18. What does the Uncharted Forest symbolize in the novel?

Chapter 9

19. In this chapter, Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy to what he now believes.

Chapter 10

20. Describe the house and its contents in your own words, and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.

Chapter 11

21. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter?
22. Explain the quotes in your own words, and discuss how they can be applied to your life:
"Whatever road I take, the guiding star is within me."
"For the word 'we' must never be spoken, save by one's choice and as a second thought."
23. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?

Chapter 12

24. Why do the main characters take the names Prometheus and Gaea (hint: look into Greek mythology)? Why weren't they allowed to choose their names in their old society?
25. What does Prometheus plan to do in the future?
26. Prometheus reaches the important realization that "To be free, a man must be free of his brothers." Cite several examples from the novel that illustrate the truth of this statement.

Project

You need to create an artifact (a 3-dimensional object) that represents some aspect of the novel. It must also be symbolic (stand for something beyond itself). An example would be a light bulb, as it could stand for light and electricity in itself, but also for the light of the individual and the light of knowledge that Prometheus carries. (You may not use this one!) Accompanying the artifact must be an explanation that includes both the literal and symbolic meanings. You may be as creative as you like; you may use any medium you wish as long as you can get it into school.

The Book Thief **Zusak**

There are multiple reasons for undertaking this text. It does provide a different perspective than typical novels about WWII in that it takes place in Germany and tells the story of those German's who were in opposition to Hitler's philosophies. It opens the door to allow readers a glimpse into the minds of people who were unable to voice their opinions, who were unable to fight tyranny and racial discrimination. It tells the story of the things that German people could do in a way that they could still survive.

Death

Death is the unusual narrator of this tale. Most of us want to personify death as horrifying and a villain. Zusak's novel presents him in a completely different light.

1. How is death dealt with in American society? Is it a closed off topic or can we talk about it freely? How is death represented? How do we deal with death in media, pop culture, literature and poetry, or in other works that you may have encountered?
2. As you read, make a list of Death's characteristics. Compile that list and then characterize Zusak's character, Death.
3. Why is this choice of narrator effective or ineffective in telling the story of Liesel. Why do you think that Zusak made the choice for Death to narrate his tale?

Storytelling

Storytelling is a powerful use of words.

4. How is story telling used in the novel? What does it accomplish?
5. How does storytelling help the characters to cope with the torments of war, oppression, tyranny and loss?
6. How has storytelling helped you to cope with troublesome memories? Does the retelling of the story help you in some way to reclaim that moment and those words?

Style

The style of the novel differs from the ones you may have encountered in the past.

7. What is different about how this novel "works"?
8. How does it affect your reading of the text? Does it change the way you read, compared to the typical format of a novel?

Project

The central question of the novel is how human beings are capable of such brutality and also have transcended suffering with acts of extraordinary love and courage. Some would credit God with this dual power, but this novel places firm responsibility with men and women, and marvels at their goodness, their frailty, and their potential for evil. Death writes that he is "haunted by humans" (548). We are all haunted by this duality and our imaginations and emotional connections with each other are our only savior. Find a way to visually represent these ideas in the form of a collage. The collage must be a half-poster board in size. There should be no white space on the collage at all. You may use whatever you have available to you at home or you can

purchase additional supplies. Your poster board must contain at least two quotes from the novel and touch on some of the major events/ideas presented in it.

Accompanying the collage must be a paragraph that describes your collage and your choices for its contents. You must also explain your choice of quotes and why they were meaningful for you.

**There will be an essay assignment for this piece during the first week of school that touches on the connections of these two novels.