Anthem

Chapter One

1. What is the mood of the beginning of the novella?
2. What is suspenseful about the opening lines of the narrative?
3. When do we first learn that the narrator is a single individual?
4. What is the immediate effect of discovering that the narrator speaks of himself in the first-person plural?
5. What is suggested by the fact that the speaker's height is considered "evil" by the Teachers and Leaders?
6. What collectivist mantras are presented in this first chapter?
7. Under what "curse" does the narrator claim to have been born? Why is this significant?
8. What early evidence is presented that the narrator is going to turn out to be a non-conformist—a troublemaker, by his society's standards?
9. What two ironies are present in the narrator's discussion of the Home of the Scholars?
10. How does this society treat its "elderly" members? Why is this significant?
11. What is an Old One? An Ancient One? What is suggested by these designations?
12. How does the narrator accept his Life Mandate as a Street Sweeper?
13. What does the future seem to hold for this curious and, presumably, intelligent and creative young man? What is the ostensible reason for this future?
14. How is International 4-8818 similar to the narrator? What does this similarity suggest about the real method for determining people's Life Mandates?
15. Why would personal friendship be a Transgression?
16. What is significant about the fact that the past is referred to as the Unmentionable Times? How does the past probably compare with the period in which the novel takes place?
17. Describe the narrator's remarkable discovery.
18. What is significant about International 4-8818's agreeing to keep the discovery a secret?
19. What is significant about the fact that the narrator claims the tunnel for himself?
20. For the next two years, what does narrator do with his discovery?
21. What great Transgression is he committing?
22. What other transgressions does the narrator commit?
23. What is the narrator suggesting when he admits that he does not feel like a transgressor? How does this begin to illustrate Rand's objectivist philosophy?
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Chapter Two

1. Describe the state of male-female relationships in the society of *Anthem.*

2. What is it that first makes Liberty 5-3000 attractive to the narrator?

3. How do the narrator and Liberty 5-3000 begin their communication? What earlier relationship does this echo?

4. How are future generations of citizens bred for the benefit of the society?

5. What is Eugenics?

6. What has the narrator's personal experience been with the Palace of Mating, and how does he feel about it?

7. As he sits in his tunnel, what does the narrator finally recognize as the word that describes the feeling that is pervasive among him and his brothers? What is the cause of this feeling?

8. What is ironic about the Council's pronouncements regarding happiness?

9. Why does Rand have the narrator tell us about Fraternity 2-5503 and Solidarity 9-6347?

10. Why are the men afraid to speak with one another?

11. Given that *Anthem* was written in 1938, what world events may have influenced the writing of the novella?

12. What biblical archetype do the Uncharted Forests bring to mind?

13. What happens to anyone who discovers the Unspeakable Word and dares to utter it?

14. How is the man who is executed similar to the narrator? Why is witnessing the execution a significant event for Equality?

15. What does the existence of an "Unutterable Word" indicate about the society of the novella?

Chapter Three

1. What does the society depicted in *Anthem* believe about truth and knowledge? What does the narrator's discovery prove about the nature of truth?

2. What is the discovery in nature that Equality makes?

Chapter Four

1. What name does the narrator eventually bestow on Liberty 5-3000?

2. What name does she give him? How is this name appropriate?
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Chapter Five

1. What emotion do the opening sentences of this chapter convey?
2. What is Equality's first thought after expressing his pride in his invention? How does his reaction illustrate Rand's Objectivism?
3. Equality has just begun to wonder about his appearance?
4. What does the narrator's invention symbolize?

Chapter Six

1. How does the opening of Chapter Six contrast with the closing of Chapter Five?
2. Why does the narrator wait thirty days to escape from the Palace of Corrective Detention?
3. Describe the tone of the end of Chapter Six.

Chapter Seven

1. Contrast the beginning of Chapter Seven with the end of Chapter Six.
2. How does Rand use the candle to ridicule the scholarly achievements of this collectivist society?
3. How does the reaction of the World Council to the narrator's presence expose hypocrisy in this collectivist society's leadership?
4. What is the council's reaction to the narrator's invention? Why is it ironic?
5. Why does the council reject Equality's invention?
6. How does Solidarity 8-1164's rejection of the light box reveal the absurdity of the Scholars' methods?
7. What is satirized in this episode?
8. What is the narrator's one regret at being an exile from his society?

Chapter Eight

1. How does the narrator feel when he awakens in the Uncharted Forest?
2. Why does he take such pleasure in his first simple meal of roasted bird?
3. How does Equality react to seeing himself for the first time?
4. What hinders the narrator's recording all of his thoughts and feelings?
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Chapter Nine

1. Why does the Golden One follow the narrator through the Uncharted Forest?
2. Why is there both pride and bitterness in the Golden One's voice when she insists that she will share the narrator's damnation?
3. How does the pair adapt to life in the forest and manage to survive in the wilderness?
4. Why does the couple's newfound happiness puzzle the narrator?
5. The passage of their progress through the Uncharted Forest contains the most vivid imagery of the novella. What imagery is described in this passage, and why has Rand saved it for this episode?
6. What is the difficulty the Golden One has in declaring to the narrator, “we love you”?
7. What word is she missing?

Chapter Ten

1. What was the original purpose of the house the couple discovers?
2. What is the symbolic significance of all the windows and the light in the house?
3. List some of the things in the house that are different from the city the couple has left behind.

Chapter Eleven

1. What significant change in language occurs at the break in this chapter?
2. What does the novella's title mean, in light of the narrator's new perspective?
3. Why does the narrator now understand why he never felt any guilt for his actions and thoughts before?

Chapter Twelve

1. What is the significance of the Golden One's saying, "I love you"?
2. What is the significance of the names the narrator chooses for himself and his companion?
3. What does the narrator now see as his destiny?
4. What specific plans does he have in regard to the house and the friends he left behind in the city?
5. What does the narrator see as the things that have enslaved humanity throughout the ages?
6. What does the narrator admit that he still does not understand?
7. What societal trends does Rand protest and warning against in *Anthem*?
8. What is the significance of the word inscribed above the portal of the narrator's house?