### Overview

**Background**  Ayn Rand wrote *Anthem* in 1937. Although it was published in England in 1938, Rand was unable to find an American publisher until 1946 due to the political climate in the United States. American publishers rejected it because it indirectly criticized communism, which was popular at the time. This infatuation with communism was a direct result of the Great Depression, which some intellectuals and journalists interpreted as the failure of capitalism.

**Book Summary**  *Anthem* reflects the ultimate result of life under a communist regime. Set in the future, modern civilization has been destroyed in a great war. All knowledge has been lost, and human society has been forced to start over. A new, primitive society exists after this “Great Rebirth.” The society functions as a collective, with no individual thought or action permitted.

Equality 7-2521 is an intelligent, creative citizen who dares to question the government’s suppression of individuality. Rand illustrates her theory of objectivism, which holds that human happiness can only be attained when individuals pursue their own purposes.

### About the Author

Ayn Rand was born Alice Rosenbaum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1905. When Rand was a teenager, her father’s pharmacy was seized during the Bolshevik Revolution. The starving family fled to the Crimea in the Ukraine. Rand studied philosophy and history at the University of Petrograd upon her return to Russia. She went on to study screenwriting at the State Institute for Cinema Arts. In 1925, she obtained permission to visit relatives in the United States. Weary of communism, she did not return.

Ayn Rand arrived in the United States at the age of twenty-one and went to Hollywood to become a screenwriter. There, she met her future husband, actor Frank O’Connor. Rand had limited success as a screenwriter but became famous as a novelist. Her other works include *We the Living*, *The Fountainhead*, and *Atlas Shrugged*. She continued to lecture on her philosophy, the theory of objectivism, publishing her own periodicals on the subject from 1962 to 1976. Ayn Rand died in 1982, in New York City.
Anthem

Reading the Book

There are several options for reading Anthem. They include:

- **Whole Class** Assign sections of the book and discussion dates using the planner on Student Journal, page 1. After students read a section and respond to the corresponding Student Journal pages, have a class discussion. At the end of the book, the class meets for The Exchange.

- **Small Groups** Read the book’s Introduction with the group. Group members then read an agreed-upon number of pages, complete the corresponding Student Journal pages, and meet to discuss. When they finish the book, they meet again for The Exchange. Use the planner on Student Journal, page 1 to establish meeting times.

- **Independently** Students read the book on their own and then meet as a group for The Exchange. Use the planner on Student Journal, page 1 to establish the meeting time.

- **Guided Reading** Have students read Student Journal, page 2 and monitor their discussion of the What If? scenario. Read aloud the book’s Introduction to give students background on the book. As students read, use the Before You Move On questions to guide comprehension. Use the Look Ahead to set a focus for reading the next set of pages. At the end of each section, assign the appropriate Student Journal pages. Discuss the pages before starting the next section. Establish a date for The Exchange and record it on the planner.

Getting Started

Have students read What If? on Student Journal, page 2 and discuss the scenario. Encourage students to describe the similarities and differences between the scenario and their lives and imagine how the situation would affect them.

- Have students write their responses to the three questions below the scenario and compare answers with a partner or the group.

- Have students discuss how the situation might relate to The Exchange question and then write a brief summary of their discussion in the Student Journal.

Reading Schedule

| Group members: __________________________________________________________________________ |
| Introduction | Page 1–2 |
| Chapters 1–2 | Pages 3–4 |
| Chapters 3–9 | Pages 5–8 |
| Chapters 10–12 | Pages 9–10 |
| The Exchange | Pages 11–12 |
| Assessment | |

What is the greatest threat to creativity?

Getting Started

What If?

You are thrilled to learn that there is going to be an exhibit by your favorite painter at the art museum in your town. Some of her paintings have received criticism because they show images of war. But you love her art because it has the power to make you feel strong emotions. You and a friend agree to go to the exhibit.

When you arrive at the museum, you are upset to learn that the exhibit has been cancelled. There are people standing outside with signs that claim the artwork is offensive. The protestors say that children come to the museum and they should not see such violent images.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

- Do the protestors have a right to keep art out of a public museum?
- How would you feel if you could not go to the exhibit?
- How would you feel if you were a parent?

Connect to The Exchange Question: Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: What is the greatest threat to creativity? Summarize your discussion.
Introduction

Have students read the book’s Introduction. Check their comprehension with the three follow-up questions on Student Journal, page 3.

Introduction: Key Concepts

Have students study the first Key Concept with the help of the graphic organizer on Student Journal, page 4. After studying the example, they should create similar graphic organizers to focus their understanding of the remaining Key Concepts.
Respond to Chapters 1–2

1. **Personal Response**
   Equality 7-2521 cannot choose his profession. He wants to study science but is assigned to sweep streets. What profession would you choose for yourself? Why?

2. **Paraphrase**
   On page 13, the words engraved in marble say, “We are all one in all and all in one. There are no men but only the great WE.”
   What does this mean? Use individual and conform in your response.

3. **Character**
   In Equality 7-2521’s society, it is forbidden to desire anything for yourself, yet Equality 7-2521 does. How does this make him feel?
   Equality 7-2521 realizes he is not like the others. He wants more out of life, but he feels guilty and ashamed about this. He tries very hard to conform, despite his secret desires.

4. **Generate Questions**
   Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

**Character Description Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>What the Character Does</th>
<th>What This Shows About the Character</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equality 7-2521</td>
<td>He does not speak to her. He greets her with his eyes. Then he greets her with a secret gesture. Finally, he breaks the law and speaks with her.</td>
<td>He is attracted to her. He is willing to defy his society’s laws in order to be closer to her. He acts on his own independent will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty 5–3000</td>
<td>She smiles at him. She returns his gesture. She asks him questions and says she likes him.</td>
<td>She has a mutual attraction to him. She is willing to break laws in order to learn more about him.</td>
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</table>

What effect does society’s laws have on Equality 7-2521’s reaction to Liberty 5–3000? How does his behavior change? Why?

Society’s laws cause Equality 7-2521 to act cautiously, because men are not supposed to prefer one person over another. Eventually, his interest in her is more important than the law. This shows that individual will cannot be suppressed.
Respone to Chapters 3–9

1. **Personal Response** People do not have personal names, but Equality 7-2521 secretly gives Liberty 5-3000 a nickname. If you could give a nickname to a friend, what would it be? Why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Equality 7-2521’s Expectations</strong></th>
<th><strong>The Council’s Reactions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He will be rewarded.</td>
<td>The Council wants to destroy the technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Council will be thrilled with his ideas.</td>
<td>They are angry because he thinks he is smarter than others and worked alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He will be allowed to join the Home of the Scholars.</td>
<td>They are angry he broke the law and bragged about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He will make work easier for everyone.</td>
<td>They are angry he tries to choose his own profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They do not want to make work easier for people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Symbolism** in Chapters 3–9: Equality 7-2521 shows his light to the Council. Write Equality 7-2521’s expectations on the left and the Council’s reactions on the right.

Equality 7-2521 realizes he created the invention for himself, not his brothers. The invention is his alone. It is an expression of what is inside of him. Equality 7-2521 compares it to “a living heart that gives us strength.”

Liberty 5-3000 wants to tell Equality 7-2521 that she loves only him, and no one else. Because they have no word for “I,” Liberty 5-3000 is unable to express herself clearly and uses the phrase “one . . . alone . . . and only.”
Chapters 10–12

1. Character’s Motive  Reread page 108. Why does Equality 7-2521 plan to someday return to the city? He knows there are other outcasts like himself. He wants to bring them back to the forest and start a new society in which all men are free.

2. Paraphrase  What does Equality 7-2521 mean when he says, “To be free, a man must be free of his brothers”? He means that a person must be an individual who is allowed to live as he or she chooses, even if it means being different from his or her community, family, or culture.

Respond to Chapters 10–12

1. Personal Response  Equality 7-2521 plans to invite others to join him in creating a new society. If you could create a new society, what would it be like? What would your society value? Condemn?

2. Cause and Effect  Men lose their individuality at the end of the Unmentionable Times. What effect does this have on society’s progress? Use the word “progress” in your response.

3. Comparisons  How does the home from the Unmentionable Times differ from the homes Equality 7-2521 is used to? What does this house help him learn about the ancient society?

What If?

4. Connect  Look at your notes on Student Journal, page 2. Think about what might happen if some people were offended by one person’s creative expression. Compare this to Anthem. What is the biggest threat to creativity?

Respond to Chapters 10–12, continued

5. Character  In Chapters 10–12, Equality 7-2521 discovers “I.” List details that show how Equality 7-2521’s discovery changes him. Use the Idea Web to answer the question.

How does Equality 7-2521’s outlook on life change after discovering the idea of “I”? Why does this word change him? Equality 7-2521 feels empowered by his individuality. He finds purpose and direction in life because he now knows for whom he is living his life. His own life, including those he chooses to have in it, has become the most important thing to him and the source of his happiness and pride.
Exchange Discussion

THE QUESTION

What is the greatest threat to creativity?

- Equality 7-2521 could not choose his work. How might the story have been different if he could have chosen to be part of the Home of the Scholars?
  If Equality 7-2521 had been allowed to choose his career, he may have been content to work in the Home of the Scholars and never rebelled. Because he was forced to do what the government chose for him, he was not content and chose to rebel.

- Describe what creativity means to you. How would you feel if you could not express it? Explain.

- Who or what in your life allows you to express your creativity? What prevents you from expressing your creativity?

Evaluate the Discussion

Use the reproducible master from page 8 of this Teacher’s Guide to evaluate The Exchange discussion. The form may also be used by students for group assessment.

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<th>Evaluate the Discussion</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
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<td>Everyone participated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everyone spoke clearly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone listened carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We stayed on the topic throughout the discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We responded to each other’s thoughts and ideas often.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people gave detailed answers using their experiences and even other texts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion Rubric

Review the work you did in your Student Journal. Take your book and your Journal with you to The Exchange book discussion.

EXCHANGE IDEAS

- Tell the group why you would recommend or not recommend this book.
- Can you imagine yourself in this book? Why or why not?
- Has this book changed or confirmed the way you think about something in your life? Explain.

THE QUESTION

What is the greatest threat to creativity?

- Equality 7-2521 could not choose his work. How might the story have been different if he could have chosen to be part of the Home of the Scholars?
- Describe what creativity means to you. How would you feel if you could not express it? Explain.
- Who or what in your life allows you to express your creativity? What prevents you from expressing your creativity?

REFLECT

Summarize your Exchange. How did this book change the way you see something? What questions do you still have? How will you answer them?
# Evaluate the Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone participated.</td>
<td>Most people participated.</td>
<td>Only a few people participated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone spoke clearly.</td>
<td>Most people spoke clearly.</td>
<td>Some people did not speak clearly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone listened carefully.</td>
<td>Most people listened carefully.</td>
<td>Some people did not listen carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We stayed on the topic throughout the discussion.</td>
<td>We stayed on the topic most of the time.</td>
<td>We did not stay on the topic all the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We responded to each other’s thoughts and ideas often.</td>
<td>We commented on each other’s thoughts and ideas sometimes.</td>
<td>We did not make many comments on each other’s thoughts and ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
<td>Many people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
<td>Only a few people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people gave detailed answers using their experiences and even other texts.</td>
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<td>Only a few people gave detailed answers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

__________________________________________________________________________
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Assessment

Assess students’ understanding of *Anthem* by administering the multiple-choice test and essay questions. (Teacher’s Guide, pages 10–12)

How you administer the Assessment depends on your objective. You may choose to use the test as:

- an open-book test to allow students to continue practicing reading strategies and/or become familiar with a typical standardized test format
- a closed-book test to check students’ comprehension of the book and their abilities in various reading skills
- a take-home test to allow students to practice reading strategies as well as test-taking skills

Suggested point values are as follows:

**Assessment Part I:** 5 points per question for a total of 50 points

**Assessment Part II:** 40 points possible (see Scoring Guide, page 13)

### Assessment Part I

**Name:**

**Closure:**

1. What is important about the books *Equity 7-2521* finds in the house from the Unmentionable Times?
   - A. Some of the books crumble into dust when touched.
   - B. *Equity 7-2521* has never seen books with covers.
   - C. *Equity 7-2521* finally discovers the forbidden word.
   - D. *Equity 7-2521* will use them as an example to make his own books.

2. Which of these passages supports the idea that, at first, *Equity 7-2521* thinks individuality is wrong?
   - A. Here, on this mountain, I and my sons and my chosen friends shall build our new land and our ideal.
   - B. All men are good and wise. It is only we, *Equity 7-2521*, who are born with a curse.
   - C. But we think of one among women, they whose name is Liberty 5-3000, and we think of no other.
   - D. And as we look upon the Uncharted Forest far in the night, we think of the secrets of the Unmentionable Times.

3. *Equity 7-2521*’s scientific experiments and his settings are forms of—
   - A. love
   - B. brotherhood
   - C. conformity
   - D. expression

**Explain why life in *Equity 7-2521*’s future society has become primitive.**

**Explain the importance of the discovery of electricity.**

### Assessment Part II

**Guidelines for Short Essay**

Have students write a short essay in response to one of the writing prompts below. Use the Scoring Guide to assist in your evaluation of their essays.

A. Explain why *Equity 7-2521*’s future society has become primitive. What message about conformity does this send? Give a real-life example of conformity and its effect.

B. How would *Equity 7-2521* answer the question, “What is the biggest threat to creativity?” How would you answer the same question?

Responses should include that *Equity 7-2521* would probably answer two concepts in the biggest threat to creativity. *Equity 7-2521* has always been shocked that his brothers but was punished for being different. He was shocked to be different, but he was also made a street sweeper. He was punished whenever he tried to express himself because being different is wrong.

**Scoring Guide**

**Description of the response:**

- 5 Interprets accurately and thoughtfully
- 4 Interprets accurately but may lack some insight
- 3 Substantiates with specific and relevant text evidence
- 2 Substantiates with interpretive statements
- 1 Substantiates in literal or limited way
- 0 Substantiates in incorrect or misleading way

**Explain why life in *Equity 7-2521*’s future society has become primitive.**

A. Explain why life in *Equity 7-2521*’s future society has become primitive. What message about conformity does this send? Give a real-life example of conformity and its effect.

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B. How would *Equity 7-2521* answer the question, “What is the biggest threat to creativity?” How would you answer the same question?

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- 4 Interprets accurately but may lack some insight
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- 2 Substantiates with interpretive statements
- 1 Substantiates in literal or limited way
- 0 Substantiates in incorrect or misleading way

### Assessment Part I, continued

**Name:**

**Closure:**

1. What is important about the books *Equity 7-2521* finds in the house from the Unmentionable Times?
   - A. Some of the books crumble into dust when touched.
   - B. *Equity 7-2521* has never seen books with covers.
   - C. *Equity 7-2521* finally discovers the forbidden word.
   - D. *Equity 7-2521* will use them as an example to make his own books.

2. Which of these passages supports the idea that, at first, *Equity 7-2521* thinks individuality is wrong?
   - A. Here, on this mountain, I and my sons and my chosen friends shall build our new land and our ideal.
   - B. All men are good and wise. It is only we, *Equity 7-2521*, who are born with a curse.
   - C. But we think of one among women, they whose name is Liberty 5-3000, and we think of no other.
   - D. And as we look upon the Uncharted Forest far in the night, we think of the secrets of the Unmentionable Times.

3. *Equity 7-2521*’s scientific experiments and his settings are forms of—
   - A. love
   - B. brotherhood
   - C. conformity
   - D. expression

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3. *Equity 7-2521*’s scientific experiments and his settings are forms of—
   - A. love
   - B. brotherhood
   - C. conformity
   - D. expression
Assessment Part I

Circle the best answer.

1. What is important about the books Equality 7-2521 finds in the house from the Unmentionable Times?
   A. Some of the books crumble into dust when touched.
   B. Equality 7-2521 has never seen books with covers.
   C. Equality 7-2521 finally discovers the forbidden word.
   D. Equality 7-2521 will use them as an example to make his own books.

2. Which of these passages supports the idea that, at first, Equality 7-2521 thinks individuality is wrong?
   A. Here, on this mountain, I and my sons and my chosen friends shall build our new land and our fort.
   B. All men are good and wise. It is only we, Equality 7-2521, we alone who are born with a curse.
   C. But we think of one among women, they whose name is Liberty 5-3000, and we think of no others.
   D. And as we look upon the Uncharted Forest far in the night, we think of the secrets of the Unmentionable Times.

3. Equality 7-2521’s scientific experiments and his writings are forms of—
   A. love
   B. brotherhood
   C. conformity
   D. expression

4. Which of these is the best summary of the story?
   A. Equality 7-2521 lives in a future in which no one is allowed to be an individual. As he begins to discover who he is, he realizes that his society is flawed. He discovers electricity, falls in love, and eventually finds himself banished for his actions. In the forest, he begins a family of his own and dreams of a new society based on freedom and individuality.
   B. Equality 7-2521 begins to experiment in a secret underground tunnel. Soon, he discovers the miracle of electricity. After working for many days with wires and bulbs, Equality 7-2521 creates an electric light to share with the Council.
   C. Equality 7-2521 has never known or understood love. Then one day, he meets a beautiful young woman he calls “the Golden One.” He falls in love and gives up everything to be with her. In time, they begin their own family.
   D. Equality 7-2521 has always wanted to be a scholar. From a young age, he was curious, and wanted to become a scientist. His dreams are crushed when he is chosen to be a street sweeper. Now, Equality 7-2521 must live a dreary life, working in a job that he hates.
Assessment Part I, continued

Circle the best answer.

5. When Equality 7-2521 first discovers the Golden One, what effect does it have on him?
   A  He decides to runaway with her.
   B  He believes that they will be married.
   C  He tries to avoid her as often as possible.
   D  He is unable to stop thinking about her.

6. How does Equality 7-2521 feel when he wakes up in the forest?
   A  Lonely and sad without his brothers
   B  Foolish for being banished
   C  Happy because he is free
   D  Bored without a job to go to

7. Which passage suggests that the members of the Council lack knowledge about the world?
   A  “So you think that you have found a new power.”
   B  “This would wreck the Plans of the World Council,” said Unanimity 2-9913, “and without the Plans of the World Council the sun cannot rise.”
   C  “No such crime has ever been committed, and it is not for us to judge.”
   D  “How dared you, gutter cleaner,” spoke Fraternity 9-3452, “to hold yourself as one alone and with the thoughts of the one and not of the many?”

8. Why does Equality 7-2521 decide to reveal his secret light to the Council?
   A  He believes it will be discovered.
   B  He wants people to know he is brilliant.
   C  He wants to share his discovery for the good of mankind.
   D  He believes the Council will honor him.

9. Equality 7-2521 works hard to create his electric light. But others do not appreciate his—
   A  conformity
   B  invention
   C  equality
   D  individuality

10. Which of these best describes how Equality 7-2521 changes at the end of the story?
    A  Equality 7-2521 now believes he must always live for the good of others.
    B  Equality 7-2521 now believes that happiness comes from living for himself.
    C  Equality 7-2521 now believes that science is all that matters.
    D  Equality 7-2521 now believes that love is more important than any scientific discovery.
Assessment Part II

Choose one question to answer. Write 3–4 paragraphs. Use 3 examples from the text to support your answer. Continue your essay on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

A. Explain why life in Equality 7-2521’s future society has become primitive. What message about conformity does this send? Give a real-life example of conformity and its effect.

B. How would Equality 7-2521 answer the question, “What is the biggest threat to creativity?” How would you answer the same question?
Guidelines for Short Essay

Have students write a short essay in response to one of the writing prompts below. Use the Scoring Guide to assist in your evaluation of their essays.

A. Explain why life in Equality 7-2521’s future society has become primitive. What message about conformity does this send? Give a real-life example of conformity and its effect.

Responses should include that life has changed to ensure that everyone is exactly the same. People do not produce new technology because no one is allowed to be different from anyone else, so no one is able to create anything new. Rand’s novel sends the message that conformity creates a society that does not progress.

B. How would Equality 7-2521 answer the question, “What is the biggest threat to creativity?” How would you answer the same question?

Responses should include that Equality 7-2521 would probably answer that conformity is the biggest threat to creativity. Equality 7-2521 has always been smarter than his brothers but was punished for being different. He knew that he wanted to be a scholar, but he was made a street sweeper. He was punished whenever he tried to express himself because being different is wrong.

Scoring Guide

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the response:</th>
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