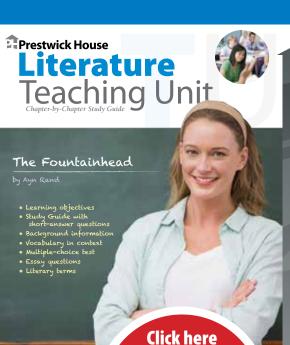


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The Fountainhead TEACHING UNIT

The Fountainhead

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

- 1. define objectivism and explain whether he or she subscribes to it as a belief system.
- 2. decide which character he or she most identifies with: Dominique, Keating, Roark, Wynand, Toohey, Steven Mallory, or Katie.
- 3. explain which character is the most common type of person in American society today.
- 4. determine how Ayn Rand feels about socialism and capitalism.
- 5. describe how Rand feels about the influence of religion on the modern world.
- 6. explain how Rand feels about the guilt complex or altruism.
- 7. describe the economic, philosophical, political, and social viewpoints Rand expresses.
- 8. understand how Rand feels about religion in America.
- 9. define and cite examples of the following literary terms: narrator; point of view
- 10. explain the significance of the title of the book
- 11. demonstrate how imagery plays a central role in characterization
- 12. define and give examples of dramatic, situational, and verbal irony in the novel
- 13. analyze character dialogue and provide opinions as to authorial beliefs and ideas expressed in that dialogue
- 14. evaluate The Fountainhead on the basis of realism
- 15. identify and explain flaws and benefits of objectivist thinking
- 16. discuss how obesity and alcohol consumption are used to connote character flaws

2 OBJECTIVES

The Fountainhead TEACHING UNIT

The Fountainhead

Questions for Essay and Discussion

- 1. What do you suppose Rand means when she says the ego "is the fountainhead" of all mankind?
- 2. Do you identify more with Roark or Keating? Why? Do you believe society, as a whole would be better with more Roarks or more Keatings?
- 3. How do you suppose Ayn Rand feels about Ellsworth Toohey's view of society and altruism?
- 4. How does Ayn Rand feel about religion, when she addresses it at all?
- 5. Do you like Howard Roark? Do you agree with everything he does?
- 6. How does Ayn Rand feel about capitalism?
- 7. How does Ayn Rand feel about the power of the media to influence thought?
- 8. Do you think Ayn Rand's message is still appropriate today?
- 9. Dominique Francon is described in primarily geometric terms. What effect does this terminology have on the reader's initial impression of her personality and character?
- 10. Many times throughout the novel, words like "sacred" and "sacrilege" are you used outside their normal context, which would be a religious discussion. How are they used in the novel, and what is the significance of their use?
- 11. In what ways do Henry Cameron and Gail Wynand fail to meet the objectivist ideals so thoroughly embodied by Howard Roark? Does Dominique ultimately meet these ideals? Why or why not?
- 12. How does the Stoddard Temple express the ideals of Objectivism?
- 13. Ellsworth Toohey refers to himself as a "humanitarian." From the text, what actions and words of his support that definition of him? What actions and words belie it?
- 14. Ellsworth Toohey's fame comes with the publication of *Sermons in Stone*. How is this title expressive of the formation of his character and personality, during his childhood and adulthood?
- 15. Based on the text of the novel, what morals, if any, are espoused by Objectivism? Use specific examples to support your answer.
- 16. It is fairly clear that Ayn Rand favors capitalism over any collective sort of economy. What advantages does capitalism have over collectivism? What disadvantages does it have? Use examples from modern history and politics to support your answer.

The Fountainhead STUDENT'S COPY

The Fountainhead

Part One: Peter Keating

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

gargoyle – grotesque animal-shaped waterspoutindomitable – unconquerablelatitude – freedom of action or choice

When Roark explains his views that he does not want to follow traditional architecture the Dean, what does the Dean first mistake as the cause for his beliefs?
What does the Dean mean when he says "an architect is not an end in himself. He is on a small part of a great social whole"?
What is the metaphorical meaning of the description of the initial scene?
How is Howard's reaction to his surroundings in the initial scene evocative of the Objective view of man's place in the universe?

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Chapter 4

Vocabulary

apparition – ghostly image
 haemophilia – (archaic spelling) disorder causing blood not to clot; with this disorder, a simple cut can cause one to bleed to death.
 presumptuous – making assumptions not warranted by existing conditions
 speak-easy – term for an illegal bar operating during Prohibition.
 subordinate – below
 tripe – literally, stew of very low quality; here, unpleasant labor.

Vhat is the	relationship between Keating and Catherine (Katie) like?
Iow does K	eating react when he figures out who Katie's uncle is?
How does K	eating react when he figures out who Katie's uncle is?
low does K	eating react when he figures out who Katie's uncle is?
	cating react when he figures out who Katie's uncle is? Cameron tell Roark when Roark tells him he aspires to be just like C
What does (

6 STUDY GUIDE

The Fountainhead STUDENT'S COPY

	w does Ellsworth's conversation with his father serve as a premonition of his sonality?
Wh	y do you think Ellsworth Toohey has such disdain for the sexual act?
Hov	w is the title of humanitarian ironic in Toohey's case?