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Anthem

BY AYN RAND



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Critical Reading and Motivation

Objectives: Supporting critical reading
Understanding authorial motivation

Activity

The title *Anthem* is part of Ayn Rand's intentional attempts to take the language of religious experience and return it to the realm of the secular. The word anthem refers to a religious song of praise. The experience of Equality 7-2521 is, in other words, an extended song praising the virtues of individualism.

Imagine that you are writing a novel about yourself and several of your friends. If you wish, however, you can make the characters, setting, etc., completely fictional. Give the novel a title that is a word or phrase normally charged with religious meaning, and write the first paragraph. This paragraph should contain an opening incident that would relate to the plot of your entire novel.

Sample:

Title: *Justified by Faith*

Lucy tightened her legs around the powerful body of the horse thundering beneath her. It felt strange that, on her left leg, she could not feel anything below her knee; this was her first time riding her horse since getting her prosthetic leg. Her father had cautioned her many times about traveling at this speed because of the difficulty she might have controlling the horse, but as the horse moved faster and faster, a sense of calm came over her, and she and the horse began to gallop as a single unit.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Author's Motivation II**

Objectives: Understanding authorial motivation
Learning about the author

Activity

Using the Internet and appropriate reference books, research Ayn Rand's life. Write a brief biography of the author, including her birth, education, family information, the works she wrote, and her death.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I**Setting II****Objective:** Understanding setting and mood**Activity**

Rand uses descriptions of light and darkness and the particular physical attributes of characters to manipulate the mood of various scenes in *Anthem*. Fill out the chart by identifying the location, mood, and feeling you get from each description in each quotation. One has been done for you as an example.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part I

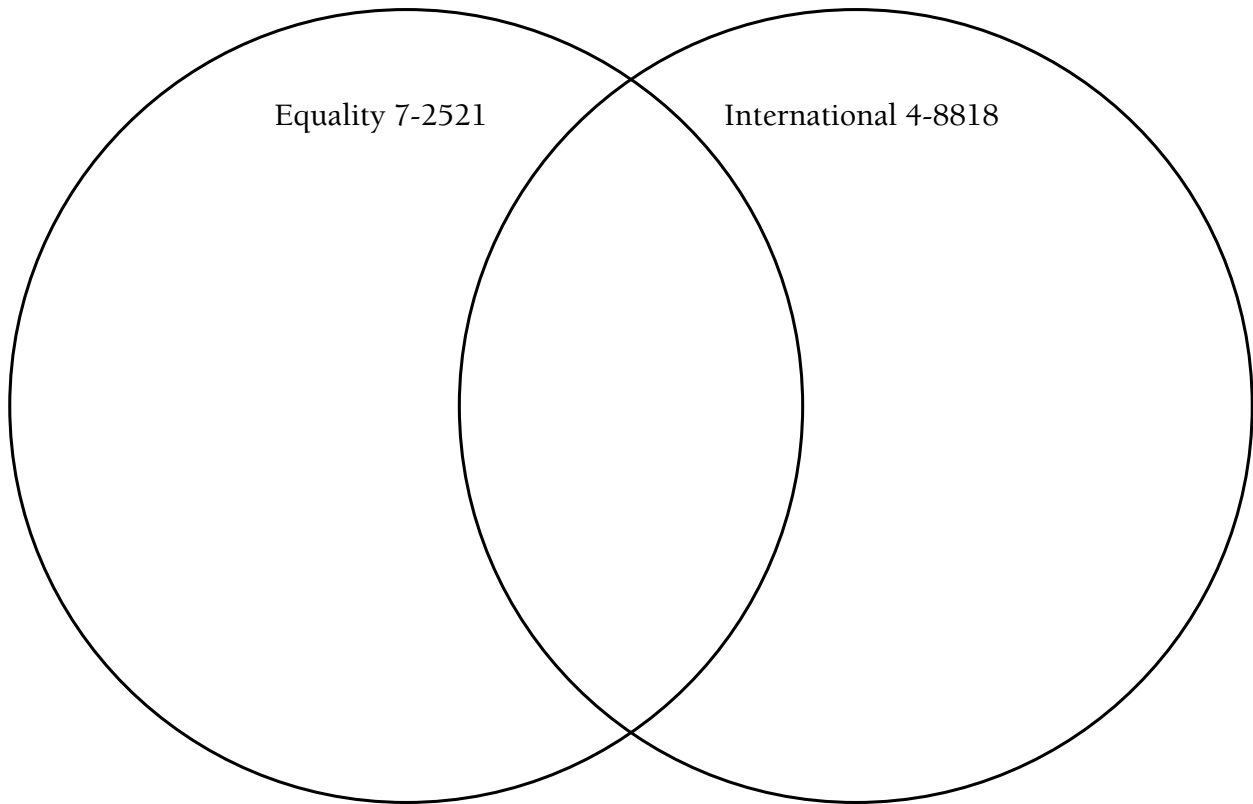
Critical Reading

Objective: Understanding characterization

Activity

Remembering details of the story can help you understand more about the characters. Based on what you have read in Part I, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the characters of Equality 7-2521 and International 4-8818.

VENN DIAGRAM



Name: _____

Date: _____

Parts V – VII**Ideas/Themes I****Objective:** Extracting underlying ideas**Activity**

Throughout history, many innovative thinkers have been persecuted for daring to defy the beliefs of those in power, just as Equality 7-2521 is in *Anthem*. Galileo and Copernicus, for example, were called heretics for their insistence that the Earth was not the center of the universe. While this may seem difficult to believe in modern times, such suppression of new information and ideas still occurs in the twenty-first century.

Using the Internet or your library, research one person who has been persecuted for his or her ideas or statements in the past 150 years. Choose the person you find most interesting, and write a resume for this individual based on your findings. A sample resume can be found on the next page, or you can use a resume making software. You may choose to write about someone from the following list, or your teacher may allow you free rein on your choice:

- Andrei Sakharov
- Lenny Bruce
- Yelena Bonner
- Robert Oppenheimer
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- Sergei Kovalev
- Aleksandr Zinovyev
- Dalton Trumbo
- Charlie Chaplin
- Paul Robeson
- Boris Pasternak
- Nelson Mandela