

# Anthem lesson plans and study guide

## answers

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**Why does Equality 7-2521 rename himself Prometheus?** Equality 7-2521 chooses the name Prometheus for himself in part as a reference to his inventing the lightbulb and in part because he believes he will bring a new philosophy of individualism to the earth.

**What do the students recite each night before bed in Anthem?** Every night before bed, the students recite these words that encapsulate the crux of collectivism: "We are nothing. Mankind is all. By the grace of our brothers are we allowed our lives. We exist through, by and for our brothers who are the State.

**Why does Equality think that the Council of Scholars is blind?** Even though the Council of Scholars has said that only knowledge that is known by all exists and what is not known by all does not exist, 7-2521 says that they are blind. He believes that secret knowledge isn't for everyone.

**What did Equality intend to do with his discovery?** (5) What did Equality intend to do with his discovery (page 61)? Show the World Council of Scholars and make new things with it.

**What is ironic about Equality's name?** Rand intends Equality 7-2521's name to be ironic, since we know that Equality 7-2521 is far superior to his peers and does not believe in the doctrine of equality. His decision to discard his given name shows his frustration with his society, his unwillingness to be held back among the masses.

**What does Prometheus symbolize in Anthem?** Fire & Light In Greek mythology, Prometheus is the god who brought fire to man, thus allowing man to progress in

knowledge and discovery. Fire is one of those universal, or archetypal, symbols that help tell the story of Anthem.

**What is the secret word in Anthem?** When seeing the Transgressor being burned in public for possessing the Unspeakable Word “I,” the Transgressor locks eyes with Equality 7-2521, and that is exactly when Equality 7-2521 decided to pursue a future just like the Transgressor.

**What are the three holy words in Anthem?** His eyes' seeing makes the earth beautiful, and his ears' hearing makes the earth sing. His mind's searching gives the earth truth. His will is the only command he respects or should respect. In his new view, the only three holy words are “I will it!”

**What is the main message of the book Anthem?** The novella "Anthem" aims to teach Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism and warn against collectivism. Objectivism is the pursuit of individual happiness, whereas collectivism is the sacrifice of the individual for the many.

**What was Equality's curse?** Equality 7-2521, the character's specific curse is that he was born with intelligence. This causes him great unhappiness in life as he is smart enough to see how his government is failing him, but unable to create changes to his situation. The intelligence makes him naturally curious and question his surroundings.

**What nickname did Liberty give to Equality?** Equality 7-2521 tells Liberty 5-3000 that he has given her a name in his mind. He has named her the Golden One. She has named him the Unconquered in her mind.

**What does the tunnel represent in Anthem?** The secret tunnel, which is one of the few remnants of the Unmentionable Times, serves as a symbol of the individualism that has become buried in the new era of collectivist practices.

**What is the great truth in Anthem?** The Great Truth: the belief that human beings are not individuals but mere fragments of a whole. Individuality is UNREAL! The Unmentionable Times: the days in the past when humans still possessed individual rights and political freedom. These days are considered evil.

**What does the light bulb symbolize in Anthem?** Ayn Rand uses light to symbolize knowledge, hope, freedom, and life. The light symbolizes hope since, it shows how Equality separates himself from collectivism and thinks for himself when he proclaims “We made it. We created it. We brought it forth from the night of the ages.

**What is Equality's crime in Anthem?** Equality 7-2521 tells us he is a sinner and criminal. But what crimes has he committed? Being alone, writing, having personal preferences. He is “cursed” with an active, questioning mind in a society where every institution aims to crush independence and instill obedience to the authority of the collective.

**Why does Equality laugh when he remembers the damned?** Equality 7-2521 has walked through the forest all day when he suddenly remembers that he is exiled from society, or, in his words, “Damned.” He laughs because he does not care that he is damned. It is the only time he thinks of what he has left behind.

**What laws did Equality break in Anthem?** He realizes that he violates the law, which states that men may not think of women except for one night during the Time of Mating. He breaks another law on the day that he speaks to the Golden One. He tells her that she is beautiful, and she replies that he is not one of her brothers, for she does not wish him to be.

**What home does Equality want to be assigned to?** Equality 7-2521 desperately wanted to be assigned to the Home of the Scholars, who develop all technology for the society, including the candle, the most recent invention, discovered a century earlier.

**What lesson does Prometheus teach us?** Prometheus sneaked into the workshop of Hephaestus and Athena on Mount Olympus. From their hearth, he stole the gift of fire, a talent usually reserved for the Olympian gods. He crept back down to Earth to deliver the gift to the humans. Prometheus taught humans how to nurture and tend fire.

**What is the unspeakable word in Anthem?** The first-person pronoun 'I' is the unspeakable word in Anthem. The narrator uses plural pronouns throughout the story, as has been deemed a requirement by the powers that be to eliminate

individuality. The purpose of this is to eradicate an individual's sense of purpose.

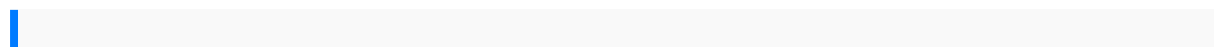
**What does the house in Anthem represent?** The house is a remnant of the Unmentionable Times. Equality 7-2521 realizes that they will need years to understand all that they find in the house. They are surprised by the smallness of the rooms and decide that no more than 12 men could have occupied them.

**What does equality 7-2521 change his name?** Prometheus Symbol Analysis At the end of the book, Equality 7-2521 chooses a new name for himself: Prometheus. Prometheus was a Greek Titan who brought fire to humans against the Gods' wishes, and was punished with eternal suffering for this transgression.

**What is Equality 7-2521's crush's nickname for him?** Lesson Summary Equality 7-2521 tells Liberty 5-3000 that he has given her a name in his mind. He has named her the Golden One. She has named him the Unconquered in her mind.

**Why do Equality and liberty take the names Prometheus and Gaea?** Equality took the name Prometheus because both Prometheus and Equality suffered for their good deeds. Liberty took the name Gaea because Equality believes that she will give birth to a race of gods to rule the Earth.

**Why does equality 7-2521 call himself we?** “We” Symbol Analysis. Individuals in Equality 7-2521's collectivist society are forbidden from thinking of themselves as individuals. The pronoun “I” is not only forbidden but unknown, and everyone must refer to him- or herself as “we” in order to ensure that all actions and self-conceptions are collective.



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