

## Advanced English 9 Summer Reading Assignment 2016

We are pleased that you will be enrolled in the advanced English program at Auburn Junior High School next year. You will need to read the following two books this summer in preparation for the class: *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells and *Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

You may purchase individual copies of these books at Books-a-Million, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, etc., or you may choose to read the novels on-line at the links provided below:

*The Time Machine:*

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/35/pg35.html>

*Anthem:*

<http://www.anderson5.net/cms/lib02/SC01001931/Centricity/Domain/222/Anthem%20by%20Ayn%20Rand.pdf>

Read the novels carefully. Included below are guiding questions for each novel. These are optional, yet highly recommended. While you will not turn your responses in for a grade, using these questions will help you understand the novels more thoroughly. They will also prepare you for the test, which you will take on your first day in Advanced English 9. This test, which will be worth 100 points, will be your first grade as a freshman.

Your summer reading is your first responsibility as a ninth grade student. Take it seriously, and get started with it right away. Your first day of school will be here before you know it!

We look forward to meeting you.

Happy summer,

The 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Department

## **Anthem**

“Imagine yourself in a future where individuality has been eliminated. Every human being exists only to serve the greater collective of mankind: the ‘great WE.’ You have no say over how you live, who you spend time with, what you study, or what job you get. You can't smile or laugh without reason. Every hour of the day is scheduled, managed, and policed by society. You're never allowed to be alone. And you're never, ever allowed to use the word ‘I,’ which means that you're always stuck using the royal ‘we.’

Yes, this is the world you'll find yourself in if you read *Anthem*. Does it sound like a nightmare? It's meant to be. But the frightening thing is that, according to Ayn Rand, we're getting closer to that world every day. Intrigued? Excited? Concerned? All of the above? Then check out *Anthem*, and find out why Ayn Rand remains one of the most controversial authors read today.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Anthem Study Questions**

The following questions are designed to guide you through your reading of *Anthem*. You will not turn your responses in for a grade.

#### **Chapter I**

1. In what is Equality writing? (i.e., what format is he writing?)
2. Describe Equality's physical appearance.
3. What is Equality's curse?
4. Compare the Home of the Infants, the Home of the Students, and the Home of the Street Sweepers.
5. Why was Equality pleased with his Life Mandate?
6. Describe a typical day in Equality's life.
7. What is ironic about the Social Meeting?
8. Why are friends forbidden?
9. What is Equality's crime?
10. Why does Equality feel no shame in committing his crime?
11. Describe the government and institutions where Equality lives.

#### **Chapter II**

1. What does Equality mean when he says, "They"?
2. Who is Liberty and what does she do?
3. What is a Transgression of Preference? How did Equality commit such a transgression or transgressions?
4. What is the Time of Mating? Why does Equality think of being sent to the Palace of Mating as being a "shameful matter"?
5. How are children raised in Equality's society?
6. Why doesn't Liberty want Equality to be one of her brothers?
7. Why does Equality care about Liberty's age?
8. What is wrong with Equality's brothers?
9. Why is Equality afraid of the Uncharted Forest?
10. What are the Unmentionable Times?
11. What is the punishment for speaking the Unspeakable Word?

#### **Chapter III**

1. What has Equality discovered and what has he learned from it?
2. Why does Equality think that the Council of Scholars is blind?

#### **Chapter IV**

1. What name has Equality given to Liberty? Why?

1. Shmoop Editorial Team, "Anthem Summary," *Shmoop University, Inc.*, Last modified November 11, 2008, <http://www.shmoop.com/anthem-ayn-rand/summary.html>.

2. What name has Liberty given to Equality? Do you think that the name is appropriate? Why or why not?
3. What is Liberty's Life Mandate?

### **Chapter V**

1. What did Equality intend to do with his discovery?
2. What is the World Council of Scholars and why is it significant?
3. Why does Equality now feel the need to guard his tunnel?
4. Why does Equality want, for the first time, to know what he looks like?

### **Chapter VI**

1. Why was Equality put in the Palace of Corrective Detention?
2. How was he treated in the Palace?
3. Why was he able to escape from the Palace, and why was it suddenly necessary to escape?
4. Why did Equality not try to escape earlier?
5. In this chapter, how does Equality refer to the pages that he has been writing?

### **Chapter VII**

1. Why does Equality say, "We are old now, yet we were young this morning . . ."?
2. What happened when Equality presented his discovery to the World Council of Scholars?
3. Ayn Rand writes, "For their eyes were still, and small, and evil." What does she really mean?
4. Why is the World Council of Scholars concerned about Equality's discovery?
5. Where does Equality go and why?

### **Chapter VIII**

1. Why does Equality experience a pride in eating?
2. What else does Equality discover in the Forest?
3. Why is he not concerned about being one of the Damned?

### **Chapter IX**

1. Who follows Equality into the Forest and why?
2. What discoveries do they make in the Forest?
3. Explain the importance of the following statement: "There is no danger in solitude."

### **Chapter X**

1. What discovery do they make in this chapter - left over from the Unmentionable Times?
2. What does Equality seem to be searching for? Why does he keep writing?

### **Chapter XI**

1. "I am. I think. I will" What is the significance of those words? Explain fully.
2. Discuss any three of the precepts which Equality adopts as his guide to life.
3. Explain what Equality means by the creed of corruption.

### **Chapter XII**

1. Why does Equality believe that people require names?
2. What name does he choose for himself and why?
3. What name does he suggest for Liberty and why?
4. How is Equality able to learn so much in the House in the Forest?
5. What did Equality learn about slavery and freedom? Why did men give up their freedom once they earned it?
6. What is the sacred word and why is it so important?

### **Concepts to Know:**

1. Individualism vs. Collectivism (Understand each philosophy in relation to *Anthem*.)
2. The Great Truth
3. The Blackest Transgression

## ***The Time Machine***

“*The Time Machine* is an early example of science fiction. It introduced the idea of using a machine for time travel. It's never been out of print since 1895. It deals with the hot-button issues from its day, like Social Darwinism and inequality. You may be thinking, I'm not living in 1890s Britain, so why should I be interested in their issues?

The answer: because their issues are still our issues.

*The Time Machine* is interested in issues of social inequality and justice – in how to best organize our society so that we can live with each other without oppression. In Wells's time, there was worry that the split between the "haves" and the "have-nots" was going to lead to violence. Today, well, maybe we're not so worried about violence, but people still worry about the split between the rich and the poor. From the 1890s to our own time, people still work on the question that seems central to *The Time Machine*: What's the best, most just way for society to be?

*The Time Machine* hasn't stayed in print for over 100 years just because Wells invented the idea of a machine that would move through time. Rather, it seems that Wells's book has remained in print because, even though much of the world has changed, certain issues haven't. Wells would be amazed at our iPods, but he wouldn't be surprised that some people have them and others don't.”<sup>2</sup>

### ***The Time Machine* Study Questions**

The following questions are designed to guide you through your reading of *The Time Machine*. You will not turn your responses in for a grade.

#### **Chapter I**

1. How believable does the Time Traveller's explanation of time as a 4th dimension sound?
2. Why do you believe Wells chose to give most of his characters jobs to identify them instead of names? What is the effect of not naming the characters?
3. What does the Time Traveller do to convince his guests that his demonstration is no trick?

#### **Chapter II**

1. How does Wells characterize the Time Traveller to make his audience doubt him?
2. Why does Wells wait so long to have the Time Traveller tell his story after he staggers into the room? How does Wells create a sense of suspense?

#### **Chapter III**

1. How does the Time Traveller describe the sensations of time travel?
2. What new fear occurs to him while he is traveling?
3. What are the Time Traveller's first impressions of the future?

#### **Chapter IV**

1. How do the people he meet respond to him?
2. What conclusions can you make about these people because they show no fear?
3. What is different about the people from what he expected to find in the future?
4. What does the general age and poor state of the buildings indicate about the civilization?
5. What does the Time Traveller feel is an unexpected consequence of a civilization that has conquered all want?
6. What possible bad consequences can you think of that would result from what looks like good technology (eliminating disease, lengthening the life span, eliminating poverty, etc.)?

#### **Chapter V**

1. How does the Time Traveller respond to the loss of his time ship?
2. What does the discovery of the wells with mechanical noises coming from them indicate about this world?

2. Shmoop Editorial Team, "The Time Machine Summary," *Shmoop University, Inc.*, Last modified November 11, 2008, <http://www.shmoop.com/time-machine-hg-wells/summary.html>.

3. What is the character of Weena like? What is her relationship with the Time Traveller?
4. What new elements of conflict are introduced in this chapter?
5. What new theory about the people does the Time Traveller make to explain what he's seen? Do you think the gulf between the rich and the poor the Time Traveller talks about exists today?

#### **Chapter VI**

1. How does Wells contrast the Eloi with the Morlocks? What similes applied to each race shows the Time Traveller's attitude about them?

#### **Chapter VII**

1. What new theory does the Time Traveller make to explain the differences between the two races?
2. Interestingly, Wells was a socialist and critical of the wealthy and aristocracy. However, who in this novel does the Time Traveller sympathize with and why?

#### **Chapter VIII**

1. What weapons does the Time Traveller take from the museum?
2. How does the museum function symbolically in the story? What does a museum represent?

#### **Chapter IX**

1. Why doesn't the Time Traveller wait until morning to start the long trip back?
2. What do you think of the Time Traveller's reaction to the loss of Weena?

#### **Chapter X**

1. What does the Time Traveller conclude about mankind's intellectual advancements? What does he feel caused the downfall of humanity?
2. Why is the Time Traveller not worried about the Morlock's plan to trap him?

#### **Chapter XI**

1. Tone is described as the author's attitude toward the subject being written about. What is the tone of this chapter? How does Wells create this tone? What images or impressions are most striking in the chapter?

#### **Chapter XII**

1. Why do you think Wells had the audience disbelieve the Time Traveller's story?
2. What evidence does Wells provide to indicate the story is true and not one made up by an imaginative inventor?
3. Why do you think that Wells doesn't tell you what happened to the Time Traveller in the end?

#### **Epilogue**

1. After all the concerns the Time Traveller had about technology and intellectual advancement, what does the narrator conclude is most important? What do you think about this conclusion?