

## Anthem Chapter Questions

### Chapter I

1. In this chapter Equality 7-2521 states that it is very unusual for men to reach the age of 45. Offer several possible explanations as to why life expectancy is so short for his society.
2. Copy and complete the following chart, and continue to add to your entries as you read each chapter. (The first entry is partially completed, as an example.)

Term and Definition	Examples from <i>Anthem</i> (Try to find several examples per term)	(a) Why is this character or act condemned in <i>Anthem</i> ? (b) Should it be condemned? Explain why or why not?
Transgression: the breaking of a law or oath	Transgression of Preference: Equality chooses International 4-8818 as his friend (p. 27)	(a) They are taught that the individual is nothing, mankind is everything, and that everyone must be treated with absolute equality. To choose a friend is to single out, and elevate, one man from the group. Also choosing a friend requires individual thought, personal choices, and value judgments, all of which are forbidden. They are expected to be mindless, and thus selfless. (b) Personal response required.
Sin:		
Curse:		
Crime:		
Evil:		
Damned:		

3. Why does the Council of Vocations assign Equality the job of street sweeper? Is it due to error, incompetence, or a more sinister motivation? Explain.
4. When does this novel take place—in the past, the present, or the future? How do you know?
5. (a) How would your teachers react if you had Equality's curse?  
(b) Why do Equality's teachers disapprove of his quick mind?

## Chapter II

1. Reread the account of Liberty 5-3000 on page 38. What character traits are revealed in this brief description?
2. Find several examples of the ways in which this society tries to obliterate each individual's mind (and self) by quashing personal choices, desires, and values.
3. Contrast Equality with the rest of the men living in this society (pg. 46).
4. Of the whole range of feelings possible to man (joy, excitement, anger, embarrassment, etc.), why is fear the prevalent emotion of this society?
5. Start a personal glossary in which you explain the following terms: the Great Truth, the Unmentionable Times, the Uncharted Forest, the Evils Ones, the Great Rebirth.
6. (a) What word is Equality struggling to recapture on page 49?  
(b) In your opinion, why is mentioning this word the only crime punishable by death in this society? How does this word contradict the ideals of this society? What could its rediscovery possible lead to?

## Chapter III

1. (a) What does Equality discover in this chapter?  
(b) How important is this discovery? Describe four or five ways in which it would help society, and make life easier or more enjoyable.
2. Outline some of the Council of Scholars' beliefs, and Equality's refutation of those beliefs.

## Chapter IV

1. Discuss the appropriateness of Equality's new name, "Unconquered."

## Chapter V

1. Equality understands that his invention will benefit mankind greatly; however, this was not his main motivation in conducting his experiments, and it is not the primary source of the great joy he experiences. Explain.
2. In your opinion, why is Equality so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel? What emotion is he feeling?

## Chapter VI

1. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicate that prisoners never tried to escape. Why not?

## Chapter VII

1. Outline four of the Council's reasons for rejecting Equality's invention.
2. What are the real reasons behind the Council's rejection and fear of the gift?
3. What does Equality mean, at the beginning of the chapter, when he says, "We are old now, but we were young this morning" (pg. 68)?

## Chapter VIII

1. What is Equality experiencing for the first time in this chapter, and what does he feel as a result?
2. Explain why Equality laughs when he remembers that he is "the Damned."
3. What does the Uncharted Forest symbolize in *Anthem*?

## Chapter IX

1. On pages 93–94, Liberty contrasts Equality to his fellow men. Paraphrase this passage.
2. In this chapter, Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy to what he now believes.

## Chapter X

1. Describe the house and its contents in your own words, and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.

## Chapter XI

1. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter?
2. Explain the following quotes in your own words, and discuss how they can be applied to your life:
  - (a) "Whatever road I take, the guiding star is within me."
  - (b) "For the word 'We' must never be spoken, save by one's choice and as a second thought."

3. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?
4. In what ways is "I" like a God?
5. Reread the incident with the Saint of the Pyre (pg. 50). What was he trying to communicate to Equality?

## **Chapter XII**

1. Why do the main characters take the names Prometheus and Gaea? Why weren't they allowed to choose their names in their old society?
2. What does Prometheus plan to do in the future?
3. Prometheus reaches the important realization that "To be free, a man must be free of his brothers" (pg. 118). Cite several examples from *Anthem* that illustrate the truth of this statement.