Anthem Study Guide Discussion Options – Pick 2

1. Why did Ayn Rand name her main characters “Prometheus” and “Gaea”? Look these names up in a book on mythology.

Compare the myths about Prometheus and Gaea to the story of these two characters.

2. In her *Foreword* to *Anthem,* Ayn Rand summarizes her political views. What laws that we have today do you think she would agree with, and which would she oppose?

3. What might it be like to live in a society where there are no “selves” and “we” has replaced “I”? In your classroom, construct

the “ideal society” as envisioned by the Council of Scholars.

4. Prometheus’s intellectual activities are illegal in his society. Throughout history, many great innovators, such as Copernicus,

Galileo, Watt, and Fulton have faced ridicule and even legal attacks. Research the struggle faced by one of these

individuals. Write a dialogue between that person and Prometheus. How would Prometheus try to encourage that person?

5. Why did Prometheus try to convince the Council of Scholars that his invention merited their support? If a government

council thinks that an invention will not benefit the community, should the invention be banned? Compare the situation

in the novel to such government agencies as the Federal Drug Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration,

which allow new products or new air routes only if they will “benefit the community.”

6. For Prometheus, life in the Uncharted Forest is quite different from what he has known. Write two brief messages that

Prometheus might want to send to any two characters who are still in the city.

7. Read about a “positive” utopia, such as in Plato’s *Republic* or Thomas More’s *Utopia,* and compare with *Anthem.*

8. Read about a “negative” utopia, such as in George Orwell’s *1984* or Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World.* Write a letter to

Ayn Rand comparing the world of the future in one of those books to the world of the future in Anthem.

9. Compare the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden to the story of Prometheus and Gaea. For what “sins”

were each condemned?

10. Which nations do you think are the most like the society in Anthem ? Which are the least like it?

11. What is “collectivism”? Which of our laws today are collectivist?

12. Is the world of *Anthem* more like the United States of 1776 or the United States today?

13. Compare the idea of equality as used in the Declaration of Independence to the idea of equality as practiced in *Anthem.*

14. The absence of industrial technology and other man-made inventions characterized the society of *Anthem.* Compare this

to the society aimed at by environmentalism.

15. Ayn Rand held that freedom is a prerequisite for economic progress. Is this view confirmed by the histories of the U.S.S.R.

and the People’s Republic of China?