1. What is suspenseful about the opening lines of the narrative?

2. Why does the narrator speak of himself in the first person plural?

3. What is suggested by the fact that the speaker’s height is considered “evil” by the Teachers and Leaders?

4. What collectivist ideas are presented in this first chapter?

5. Under what curse does the narrator claim to have been born? Why is this significant?

6. What are the early signs that the narrator is going to be a nonconformist—a troublemaker, by his society’s standards?

7. What is an Old One? What is an Ancient One? What is suggested by these designations?

8. How does the narrator accept his Life Mandate as a Street Sweeper?

9. How is International 4-8818 similar to the narrator? What does this similarity suggest about the real method for determining people’s Life Mandates?
10. What is significant about the fact that the past is referred to as the Unmentionable Times? How does the past probably compare with the period in which the novel takes place?

11. Describe the narrator’s remarkable discovery:

12. What is significant about International 4-8818’s agreement to keep the discovery a secret?

13. Why is it significant that the narrator claims the tunnel for himself?

14. For the next two years, what does the narrator do with his discovery?

15. What transgressions has the narrator committed? (What rules has he broken?)

16. What is the narrator suggesting when he admits that he does not feel like a transgressor?
1. Why aren’t there male-female relationships in the society of *Anthem*?

2. What is it that first makes Liberty 5-3000 attractive to the narrator?

3. Define Eugenics:

4. As he sits in the tunnel, the narrator finally recognizes a word that describes the feeling that is pervasive among him and his brothers? What is the feeling? What causes the feeling?

5. What is ironic about the Council’s pronouncements regarding happiness?

6. Why does Rand have the narrator tell us about the nighttime behavior of Fraternity 2-5503 and Solidarity 9-6347?

7. How is the man who dies in the fire similar to the narrator? Why is viewing this execution significant for Equality?
Anthem
Chapter 3

1. What does the society depicted in Anthem believe about truth and knowledge? What does the narrator’s discovery prove about the nature of truth?

2. What is the discovery in nature that Equality makes?

Anthem
Chapter 4

1. What name does the narrator eventually bestow on Liberty 5-3000?

2. What name does she give him? How is the name appropriate?

Anthem
Chapter 5

1. Equality creates his own invention and immediately thinks of how it will benefit everyone in society. According to Rand, what does this prove about humans who are given the freedom to pursue their own interests?

2. Why is Equality beginning to wonder about his appearance?

3. Since the light is far brighter than anything he or his brothers have ever seen, what does his invention symbolize?
**Anthem**  
Chapter 6

1. Contrast the end of chapter 5 to the beginning of chapter 6. What has changed?

2. Why does the narrator wait thirty days to escape from the Palace of Corrective Detention?

3. Describe the tone at the end of chapter six and provide textual evidence for support.

**Anthem**  
Chapter 7

1. Contrast the beginning of chapter 7 with the end of chapter 6.

2. How does Rand use the candle to ridicule the scholarly achievements of this collectivist society?

3. How does the reaction of the World Council to the narrator’s presence expose hypocrisy in this collectivist society’s leadership?

4. What is the council’s reaction to the narrator’s invention? Why is it ironic?

5. Why does the council reject Equality’s invention?

6. What is absurd about the scholars’ methods for creating new inventions?

7. Explain the satire in Equality’s visit to the Scholars.

8. What is the narrator’s one regret at being exiled from his society?
Anthem
Chapter 8

1. How does the narrator feel when he awakens in the Uncharted Forest?

2. Why does he take such pleasure in his first simple meal of roasted bird?

3. How does Equality react to seeing himself for the first time?

4. Why can’t the narrator record all of his thoughts and feelings?

Anthem
Chapter 9

1. Why does the Golden One follow the narrator through the Uncharted Forest?

2. Why is there both pride and bitterness in the Golden One’s voice when she insists that she will share in the narrator’s exile?

3. Why does the couple’s newfound happiness puzzle the narrator?

4. The passage of their progress is full of light and dark imagery. What is significant about Rand’s use of imagery in this section?

5. What is the difficulty the Golden One has in declaring to the narrator, “we love you”?

6. What word is she missing?
Anthem
Chapter 10

1. What is the symbolic significance of all the windows and light in the house?

2. List at least five things in the house that are different from the city the couple has left behind?
   * *
   * *
   * *
   * *

Anthem
Chapter 11

1. What significant change in language occurs at the break in this chapter?

2. What does the novella’s title mean, in light of the narrator’s new perspective?

3. Why does the narrator now understand why he never felt guilt for his actions and thoughts before?
1. What is the significance of the Golden One saying, “I love you”?

2. What is the significance of the names the narrator chooses for himself and his companion?

3. What specific plans does he have regarding the house and the friends he left behind in the city?

4. What does the narrator admit that he still does not understand?

5. What societal trends does Rand protest and warn against in *Anthem*?