

English II, College Prep
Summer Reading Packet

Shaw, George Bernard: *Pygmalion*

ISBN-10: 1416500405

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

ISBN-10: 0374521956

Pygmalion Assignments

All work is due the first day back to school in August. All work must be completed for a grade. Be prepared to turn in all written assignments on the first day back to school in August. In addition, be prepared to take a quiz on the reading and to participate in a graded formal discussion on the play on the first day back to school.

Pygmalion Act Questions

Answer each question from the five acts. Your responses can be hand written or typed, but they must be on a separate sheet of paper.

Act One

1. What purpose does the rain shower serve?
2. The note taker is assumed to be of what profession? What actually is his profession?
3. What does the note taker say about a "woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds"?
4. The note taker brags about what he could do for the flower girl within three months. What does he claim?
5. Who takes the cab Freddy brings? Why?
6. What do Higgins and Pickering have in common?

Act Two

1. When Higgins recognizes the flower girl, what is his reaction?
2. What does Eliza Doolittle want?
3. Even after he agrees to teach her, what is Higgins' attitude towards Eliza?
4. Describe Mrs. Pearce's role.
5. Eliza determines to leave rather than to be further insulted. How does Higgins persuade her to stay?
6. What is the point of the bath scene?

7. Mrs. Pearce makes some suggestions to Higgins. What are they?
8. Why did Alfred Doolittle come to see Professor Higgins?
9. Doolittle says, "I'm undeserving, and I mean to go on being undeserving." Why does he not want to better himself?
10. Why does Doolittle want only five pounds instead of the ten he is offered?

Act Three

1. Who are Mrs. and Miss Eynsford Hill?
2. Henry says, "We want two or three people. You'll do as well as anybody else." What does the fact that he says that tell us?
3. What does Liza do wrong at Mrs. Higgins' home?
4. What does Clara think of Eliza?
5. Who is Nepommuck?
6. Is Eliza successful at the ambassador's reception?

Act Four

1. Why did Eliza throw Higgins' slippers at him?
2. What is Higgins' advice to Liza when he realizes she is upset (although he cannot understand why she is upset)?
3. Why does Liza wish Higgins had left her where he had found her?
4. Why does Liza tell Freddy, "Don't you call me Miss Doolittle . . . Liza is good enough for me."
5. What was Freddy doing below Eliza's window?

Act Five

1. Why is Henry Higgins concerned about Liza's being gone?
2. Why is Alfred Doolittle upset?
3. Higgins says, "She behaved in the most outrageous way. I never gave her the slightest provocation." Is he lying or not?
4. What becomes of Eliza?

Pygmalion Discussion Questions

Read each of the questions and be prepared to answer them during a formal discussion on the first day of school in August. While you are not required to respond to these in writing, it would be a good idea for you to write notes/answers next to the questions so it will be easier for you to participate in discussion.

1. What are the main conflicts in the play, and how is each resolved?
2. What does the setting add to the story?
3. Where is the climax of the play? Justify your answer.
4. Are the characters in the play stereotypes? If so, explain why stereotypes were used. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.
5. Could anything have been gained by adding more scenes either before the beginning of the play or after the ending? If so, what and for what purpose? If not, why not?
6. Discuss the ideas by which Higgins lives his life. Do they have any merit?
7. Are Liza's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.
8. Compare and contrast Higgins and Pickering.
9. Characterize Bernard Shaw's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the play?
10. Compare and contrast Liza and Clara.
11. Compare and contrast Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Eynsford Hill.
13. Explain how the title relates to the events of the play and the themes of *Pygmalion*.
14. Explain Pickering's role in the play. Why was he included?
15. What is Mrs. Pearce's role in the story? What is her use as a character?
16. Explain how the names of the characters are appropriate.
17. Is the story of *Pygmalion* believable? Explain why or why not.
18. Explain how Liza's view of "lady" changes during the course of the play.
19. Who is the main character of the play? Justify your answer.
20. Define "good girl" as you think Liza would.

21. Discuss the meaning of the following quotations in relationship to the themes of the play:

a. "You and I and Pickering will be three old bachelors instead of only two men and a silly girl."

b. ". . . the difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she is treated."

c. "The question is not whether I treat you rudely, but whether you ever heard me treat anyone else better."

d. "I care for life, for humanity; and you are a part of it that has come my way and been built into my house. What more can you or anyone ask?"

e. "Making life means making trouble."

f. "I only want to be natural."

25. Did you enjoy reading *Pygmalion*? Why or why not?

26. What is the difference between "being rich" and "having class"?

27. Eliza Doolittle aspired to work in a real flower shop instead of on the corner. Define and describe one of your aspirations.

28. Define "vulgar."

29. Have you read any other books or seen any movies that were similar in any way to *Pygmalion*? If so, what were they?

Pygmalion Essay Question

In a multi-paragraph essay explain who is responsible for Eliza's situation. Your essay should be well-organized and you should use examples from the text to support your opinion. (*This essay must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font. It must also be double-spaced.*)

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All work must be completed for a grade.**

Read each of the questions and be prepared to answer them during a formal discussion on the first day of school in August. While you are not required to respond to these in writing, it would be a good idea for you to write notes/answers next to the questions so it will be easier for you to participate in discussion. Be prepared for a quiz on *One Day in the life of Ivan Denisovich* on the first day back to school in August.

Reading Assignment #1

1. Who is Ivan Denisovich Shukhov?
2. Why didn't Shukhov rise at reveille?
3. Who are Tyurin and Pavlo?
4. The Tartar sentenced Ivan Denisovich to three days penalty with work for oversleeping. How did Ivan get out of serving that sentence?
5. Ivan did a lousy job of washing the guardroom floor. Why?
6. Identify Alyosha the Baptist, Buinovsky and Fetiukov.
7. Why was it better to hide around a corner than to be seen by a guard alone?
8. What happened when Ivan went to the doctor?
9. Why did Ivan hide his bread?
10. How did the 104th get out of being sent to the "Socialist Way of Life Settlement" to work?
11. Why did Tsezar Markovich give Ivan his cigarette butt instead of giving it to Fetiukov?
12. Who was Lieutenant Volkovoi?
13. What was the result of the "undershirt search"?

Reading Assignment #2

14. "The thoughts of a prisoner -- they're not free either." Why not?

15. Why didn't Ivan write to his family more often?
16. Why didn't Ivan want to be a carpet painter after his release?
17. "That wasn't the way to eat, he learned in camp. You had to eat with all of your mind on the food ---." Why did Ivan think that?
18. Why were snowstorms both a blessing and a curse to the prisoners?
19. The experienced prisoners get by by stashing useful things and economizing. Give at least four examples.
20. Why did Ivan like to work?
21. What kind of work did Fetiukov and the captain have? Why was that ironic?
22. Why did Ivan tell Kilgas he shouldn't worry about his 25 years?
23. What were the circumstances leading to Ivan's incarceration?
24. Why did the men often have short rations?

Reading Assignment #3

25. How did Ivan manage to get extra bowls of food for his squad?
26. The idea that the squad works together for mutual benefit or honor is shown several times. Give at least two examples.
27. Who was Der?
28. Why did Ivan keep working after it was time to quit?
29. Where do the people of Ivan's village say the old moon goes?

Reading Assignment #4

30. Who was missing at the count, and what happened to him when he was found?
31. How did the 104th exert its independence on the way back from work?
32. What favor did Ivan volunteer to do for Tsezar? Why?
33. Why didn't Ivan get caught with the piece of hacksaw blade when he was searched?
34. Why didn't Ivan get parcels of his own?
35. What was Ivan's reward for holding a place in line for Tsezar?

36. Identify the Limper.

Reading Assignment #5

37. Where did Ivan go after dinner?

38. Why was Alyosha glad to be in prison?

39. What was Ivan's view of religion?

40. What strokes of luck had Ivan had that day?

Interpretation

1. From what point of view is *Ivan Denisovich* written, and what effect does that have on the story?

2. Is the story of *Ivan Denisovich* believable? Explain why or why not.

3. Is there a climax in the story? Explain.

4. Are the characters in *Ivan Denisovich* stereotypes? If so, explain the usefulness of employing stereotypes in the novel. If they are not, explain how they merit individuality.

5. What is the setting of the story? Could this story have been set in a different time and place and still have the same effect?

6. What are the conflicts in the story? Are the conflicts all resolved? If so, how? If not, why not?

7. Divide *Ivan Denisovich* into chapters and title each chapter. Justify your choices.

Critical

8. Compare and contrast Ivan Denisovich and Fetiukov.

9. Compare and contrast Ivan and Alyosha.

10. Characterize Alexander Solzhenitsyn's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?

11. Explain why Ivan's unit works so hard together on the block walls.

12. Explain the impact of Article 58 of the Criminal Code on each of the prisoners in Ivan's unit.

13. Discuss the use and value of bribes in the "special" prison.

14. In what ways is Ivan shown as a human being instead of a perfect hero? Where do some of his flaws show up? Give examples.

15. Give several examples of Solzhenitsyn's use of understatement in the story and explain its effect.
16. What faults in his society does Alexander Solzhenitsyn point out in *Ivan Denisovich*?
17. "Thank God for the man who does his job and keeps his mouth shut!" Why?
18. "It's no joke to rob 500 men of over half an hour." Why was that half hour so important to the men? (One might think time would be irrelevant in prison.)
19. Can the prisoners survive without taking risks?
20. It was said on several occasions that no one ever escaped and no one had ever finished his sentence. What kept the prisoners going with their daily routine even though they knew these facts?

Personal Response

21. Did you enjoy reading *Ivan Denisovich*? Why or why not?
22. Are there any circumstances under which it would be right to give or receive bribes in our society today? Are there people who do it? If so, who are they?
23. How important is luck in a prisoner's survival?
24. How important are having luck and taking risks in our society today?
25. Does anyone have control over his own destiny? Explain.
26. Ivan had a "code" by which he lived. What is your code?
27. Ivan had certain techniques by which he survived in prison. Are there any "techniques" to surviving in our society? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
28. Have you read any other books or seen any other stories like *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*? If so, what were they. If not, why do you suppose you haven't?