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# **Reflections:**

A Student Response Journal for...

# The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand

written by Pete Boysen

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#### To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For The Fountainhead, we also have these materials:

Book Teaching Unit

See our catalogue, visit our web site at www.prestwickhouse.com, or call 1-800-932-4593 for more information.

#### To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

# **Class Record Sheet**

25.	24.	23.	22.	21.	20.	19.	18.	17.	16.	15.	14.	13.	12.	11.	10.	9.	8.	7.	6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.
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# Response Sheet

Name	Section	Date	

## Background/Pre-Reading

1. Ayn Rand began her screenwriting career during college and continued it when she emigrated to the United States. She enjoyed the writing process, but came to see it more as a tool for expressing the views of objectivism rather than for creating and adapting stories for their own sake. It is ironic that someone who scorned the ideas of teamwork would choose a profession that requires so much collaboration with others.

Rand uses her main characters to serve as mouthpieces for her philosophy. Imagine that you are a screenwriter. You have written a script that concerns one of the main values of mainstream society: education, politics, religion, the justice system, the family unit, or a different value, one of your own choosing.

Write an opening monologue for your main character, and express your opinion about the value you have chosen in that monologue.

2. The Fountainhead is a dystopian novel about an architect who never finds financial success despite his ingenious gift. He takes personal satisfaction from his immense creative gifts and from seeing his creative visions come to life; he does not need validation from others to feel like he has talent and genius.

Consider other stories you have read, or movies you have seen, that are about people who have tremendous talents and gifts, but are unable to experience prosperity from their gift because of their own personal stubbornness, or a refusal to satisfy society's expectations.

Come up with a character description and plot outline for your own original story about someone with tremendous gifts who is not able to experience success for reasons similar to Howard Roark. Your plot outline should be written in bullet points and be no longer than a page.

3. The word *fountainhead* refers to the source of something—most commonly the water in a river, or knowledge. *The Fountainhead* is all about Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism—namely, that the individual is more important than society as a whole, and that selfishness is the highest virtue. As one might expect from someone operating from such an egotistical viewpoint, before her death in 1982, Rand believed that her novel is the source of a wisdom that would transform the planet.

What is your opinion about the value of the individual? When should the individual be more important than his/her society? When should society be more important? Give examples for each part of your opinion from personal experience.

4. A blurb is the paragraph that describes the book that someone is about to read; it's usually on the jacket of the book or in a section after the book is completed. The blurb for *The Fountainhead* talks about Ayn Rand's unique philosophy of objectivism. It also asserts that Howard Roark was alone in his fight against the world, which sought to bring him down to its own level of mediocrity. It gives clues as to the tragic fight that Roark will have to endure if he is going to maintain his intellectual and aesthetic purity.

The purpose of a blurb is to grab the reader's interest, but not spoil the story by giving away too many of the plot's events. Another common feature of a dust jacket is selections from positive reviews of the book. Imagine that someone is going to write your biography; compose the blurb that would appear on the dust jacket. What novel or play might your life resemble? Of course, much of the information would have to be made up, so allow your imagination free rein. Instead of making up a few quotes about your book, write a positive, three-line review of the story of your life.

5. Society's fear of genius is the primary source of opposition to Howard Roark in *The Fountainhead*. This opposition is the source of much conflict, and it is this conflict that moves the plot along. While such figures as Ellsworth Toohey will embody this fear, it is the *fear* that is Roark's enemy, rather than a specific person. The most difficult part of the story, from Rand's perspective, is that the antagonist is invisible and eternal.

In your own life, what invisible antagonists do you face? What are the pressures that you face from day to day? Examples might be time constraints, peer pressure, body weight, procrastination, bad habits, fear of failure, or family strife, among others.

If you could face one of your invisible antagonists, what would you say? Write a conversation that the two of you might have.

#### Part I

6. The novel opens with the young architect Howard Roark, standing naked at the edge of a cliff made of granite. He has just been kicked out of his architecture school because of the individualism with which he approaches his craft. He goes to meet with the dean of the school, and the dean explains that Roark's designs had been, up until that point, too modern. He offers Roark readmission to the school, once Roark matures and can accept direction from others about his design work. Roark rejects the dean's offer; afterward, the dean asserts that Roark will never become a genuine architect.

How do you think Roark reacts internally to this meeting? How would you have reacted? Write a letter from Roark to one of his friends, detailing both his response to the dean and his feelings about the confrontation.

7. When prized students at academic institutions are expelled, there is generally a strong response from the student body. While some may favor the expulsion of the student, depending on the particular offense, the more common (and usually more vociferous) response comes from the supporters of academic freedom.

Write an editorial that would appear in the campus newspaper at the Stanton Institute of Technology, concerning the expulsion of Howard Roark. You may choose to support or argue against the expulsion, but be sure to give valid reasons that support your opinion.

8. Roark is conspicuously absent from the rows of graduates at the Stanton commencement exercises. However, Peter Keating does graduate, and Chapter 2 shows him sitting and thinking about how great he is and will become. This pride is gratified when the commencement speaker, Guy Francon, comes by and offers Keating a job. Keating has to decide between this job and a wonderful scholarship that he has won to go to graduate school. Ultimately, his mother cajoles him into accepting the job.

Write a poem that expresses Keating's feelings and point of view, EITHER as he sits and basks in his own glory, OR after his mother has talked him into accepting the job from Guy Francon.

9. The first five chapters of the book contain a great deal of material about the academic backgrounds, relative levels of confidence, and organization of priorities of Roark and Keating. The reader comes away knowing a great deal about what makes both men tick, and what will motivate both men to accomplish great things.

Which of these architects do you think will achieve the greatest professional and personal success? Which of these architects do you think best espouses the values that Ayn Rand values so highly? Why?

10. When you graduate college, one of the most important documents you will need to create is your resume. This summarizes all of your educational experience and any practical experience you had while you were in college that would contribute to your professional success. Examples of practical experience could include special projects you worked on for some of your classes, internships you held during college, as well as any paid employment.

Write a resume for either Keating or Roark, that they could use as they go out into the work world after college. This should be no longer than one page, but it should include their contact information, educational experience, and skills and attributes that would make them a valuable asset to an architecture firm.

11. After Henry Cameron collapses, he asks Roark to shut down his architecture office and burn every sketch inside, and Roark complies with his request.

Why do you think that Henry Cameron does this? If you were Roark, would you go along with the request or not? Write a short letter of  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  page to a classmate explaining your opinion.

12. After Henry Cameron's office closes, Peter Keating asks Francon to hire Roark at his firm. Interestingly, Roark agrees to work there, as long as he does not have to do any work with design. While Keating is in charge of Roark, he takes an odd enjoyment from being able to boss Roark around.

Have you ever been in a situation where you were being bossed around by someone who was less intelligent than you or less gifted than you in the area in which you were being controlled? An example might be a math teacher who cannot add correctly, or a football coach who knows nothing about proper blocking technique. Write ½ - ¾ page describing your experience and how things turned out. If you've not had this happen to you, write about a friend that it happened to.

13. Finally, Roark accepts a design assignment from Francon, who asks Roark to put together a building design based on the Dana Building, which had been one of Henry Cameron's landmark buildings. When Francon suggests a classical Greek style, Roark disagrees, suggesting that Cameron himself would have been more experimental in his design, and so a building seeking to honor Cameron should also be experimental. Enraged, Francon fires Roark for being insubordinate. Roark spends a good deal of time looking for another job but cannot find one.

Imagine that you are Francon, and the head of another architecture firm sends you an e-mail, asking for a reference about Howard Roark. What would you put in your e-mail? Write what Francon's response to this reference request would be.

14. During the building-trades strike, Ellsworth Toohey is called upon to address the strikers. He has never before come out publicly in support of the strikers, because to do so would end his lucrative career as a columnist for the *Banner*.

However, Toohey comes out with a blistering invective in favor of unity and selfishness, bringing even such blowhards as Peter Keating around to his way of thinking.

You are a reporter for an independent newspaper, not owned by Wynand's syndicate. Write a summary of Toohey's speech, as well as a brief essay explaining your opinion of it. Use specific examples to support your agreement or disagreement with Toohey's line of thought.

15. Clearly, Dominique is a unique woman, in a number of ways. Physically, she is not the prototype of the ideal woman, but she does possess a beauty that is striking in a number of ways. It comes across in her angles, in her posture, in the aloof way she carries herself.

Imagine that you are one of Dominique's best friends, and that you are helping her put together an online personal advertisement. What would you write about her? Consider the following areas: hobbies, favorite music, ideal location for a first date, what she looks for in a relationship partner. This will require a good deal of imagination and creativity.

16. Much of the disputation in this book has centered around particular architectural styles. There is a heated debate concerning whether architecture should reach forward into uncharted territory, and find new forms, or celebrate the forms that have worked well in the past, giving them a sort of immortality.

By this time, you have a fairly good idea of what organic architecture looks like, and what classical architecture looks like. If money were no object, which style would you choose for your home? Why?

- 17. Initially, Dominique does not want to meet Peter Keating; he makes several attempts to get to know her, but is rebuffed. Eventually, he prevails on Francon to introduce the two of them. The result of that meeting is a cordial conversation, after which Keating both fears and loves Dominique.
  - Imagine that you are Keating, at home that night after your first meeting with Dominique. Write a diary entry that Keating would have written describing his feelings, not just for her, but about his entire situation in the book thus far. Your entry should be between ½ and ¾ of a page.
- 18. Whitford Sanborn hires Roark to design a new home in the country for him and his wife. Sanborn's first choice to design the home had been Henry Cameron, but Cameron does not want to come out of retirement to carry out the design. Cameron recommends Roark as the ideal architect for the project.

The first set of sketches that Roark sends to Sanborn are pleasing, at least to Whitford—his wife cannot stand them and makes a number of complaints about various aspects of the design. When Sanborn goes back to Roark to request changes, Roark will not compromise with him, and instead designs the house according to his own tastes. Once the house is finished, Mrs. Sanborn refuses to move into it.

Imagine that you are Mr. Sanborn. Compose an e-mail that he would send to his attorney summarizing the tumultuous process of the design and construction of the house, as well as Mrs. Sanborn's initial and ultimate objections.

19. Chapters 11-13 contain a number of life-changing career choices for both Roark and Keating. While all of Roark's decisions appear to be motivated by his desire to remain his own man and to remain true to his own architectural visions, Keating's decisions appear to be motivated by a desire to win the approval of others. He curries the favor of Dominique, Francon, and even his own mother, and appears to base many of his decisions on their likely responses.

Imagine that you are a psychiatrist, and Peter Keating is lying on the couch in your office. Based on what you know by the end of Chapter 13, what would you say to Peter? What advice would you give to him? Make a set of clinical notes that you would take during your initial conversation, and write a one-page summary containing your advice and explanations for your opinion.

20. Peter Keating puts his wedding plans with Katie on hold, in no small part because of his new infatuation with Dominique. He knows that he can keep her even if he makes her wait, because of her weakness.

Do you know of friends who have treated other people like this in romantic relationships? In other words, have you had friends who kept a boyfriend or girlfriend around while shopping for another one that they liked more? How did things turn out? Did you advise your friend? If so, did you tell him/her that s/he was behaving inappropriately, or not? Why?

21. One of the most enduring television formats has been the soap opera. Couples join and separate, then re-join, or pair up with other separated partners. The television audiences are so hooked by the stories that they will even pay to buy summaries of the episodes that they missed.

Imagine that you are the screenwriter of a soap opera, and that Peter and Katie are characters. Write the scene of their parting, and include stage directions, costuming, lighting, and sound directions. Use all of these stage elements to make their parting as melodramatic as possible.

22. In Chapter 14, Henry Cameron passes away. For much of the first part of the book, Cameron serves as a mentor for Howard Roark, who hurries to New Jersey to be by Cameron's bedside during his last moments.

Write an obituary for Henry Cameron, from the point of view of Howard Roark. Be sure to list his accomplishments, and detail the legacy he leaves behind him, and how the architectural industry will be different now that Henry Cameron is no longer alive to work in it.

23. Peter Keating inherits the entire estate of Lucius Heyer. However, this is not due to a warm relationship that the two men had: on the contrary, the implication suggests that the only reason Heyer made this request was because Keating had evidence that Heyer knowingly padded his estimated construction costs. During a confrontation with Keating, Heyer dies of a stroke.

Describe a time when you have benefited by blackmailing someone else, or by holding secret information over their head and forcing them to do things for you. If you have never done this, describe a time when a friend had this kind of power over someone else.

24. Casting is one of the most important decisions that go into the making of a motion picture. Picking the right actor for a particular role is crucial for the success of that role, as well as for the film as a whole.

With this in mind, which movie actors would you cast in the roles of Howard Roark and Peter Keating. Imagine that Clint Eastwood has decided to direct a motion picture version of *The Fountainhead*. Write a letter to Mr. Eastwood, indicating whom you would place in those two roles, and the reasons for your suggestions.

25. At the end of Part I, the reader has a solid understanding of the differences between Peter Keating and Howard Roark. While Keating has a greater level of professional success, and has the greater level of recognition in society as a great architect, he lacks personal satisfaction, because his entire focus has been on pleasing others rather than himself.

In contrast, Howard Roark designs only the buildings he wants to design, for the commissions he wants to accept. This costs him a lot of money and prestige, but he is willing to accept those costs as part of ensuring his own personal happiness.

Are you more like Peter Keating or Howard Roark? Based on the major decisions you have made so far in your life, which of these two men are you more likely to turn out like in your adult life? Why?

#### Part II

26. In Chapter 1, Dominique encounters Roark when she visits her father's quarry. When she sees him, he is drilling on a big rock while looking at her as though he owns her—a scene bristling with metaphoric significance on a number of levels. She returns later to see the quarry, and she sees Roark in a similar pose. Finally, the third time results in a conversation, and Roark tells Dominique that his presence at the quarry is only for the money.

If you were directing a film version of this novel, how would you costume Roark and Dominique? How would you juxtapose the two characters—in other words, where would you have Dominique standing relative to Roark as he works—above him, far away, behind a shack a few feet away? Explain your reasoning for those two decisions in a letter to your producers.

Note to Teacher: Writing prompts that deal with the actual rape scene are included on a separate page, which is not intended for all students; if you choose to use them with your classes, however, the prompts are on page 18.

27. When Roark takes a job with Roger Enright's firm in New York City, Dominique feels that she is no longer vulnerable because the man she loves is permanently gone from her life. In a way, this frees her to move forward in accepting the bland charms of Peter Keating, primarily because true love has been absolutely denied to her.

Have you ever loved someone or something even though that person or that thing was harmful to you? How did the love begin? Why did you love this person or thing? How did the love turn out to be harmful? How did the situation end up being resolved, or has it?

28. Ellsworth Toohey gives a rousing speech before the Council of American Builders, a group that is highly dissatisfied with the current trends in modern architecture; however, it has no concrete suggestions for ways to counteract those trends.

Take Toohey's speech and convert its main idea into a poem of somewhere between ten and twenty lines. The rhyme scheme, if any, is up to you. Make sure that you use figurative language and imagery that expresses Toohey's ideas.

29. Chapter 2 contains one of the most controversial scenes in all of Rand's writings: Howard Roark enters Dominique's house one evening and rapes her, "like a master taking shameful, contemptuous possession" of an object, rather than like the passion of love.

The group that most frequently takes offense to this scene is the feminist wing of scholars, who decry the writing of a rape scene by a woman in such a positive light. However, many academic camps find the rape scene to be problematic, at best.

Write a letter to Ayn Rand, describing your own personal reaction to the rape scene. Is it a necessary element for a novel about objectivism, or is it excessive? Could the scene have been written differently and yet made the same point?

30. Rand might argue that Howard Roark's rape of Dominique, and Dominique's particular response, constitute the ultimate act of objectivism—the individual reaching out and taking what he wants, with no thought of consequences or implications for others. Dominique, as the woman, accepts the aggression of the man as part of her due, and as part of what a woman should expect, according to Rand's philosophy.

Is there a better way to write this scene so that it expresses the aims of objectivism without being so offensive and demeaning to women? Rewrite this encounter between Roark and Dominique with an eye toward preserving the aims of objectivism without the violent aggressiveness that ensues. If you don't believe a revision is possible, write about why rape is one of the final outcomes of a personal ethic grounded in objectivism.

31. In Chapter 6, Roark goes to a cocktail party with Austen Heller because Heller tells him that Dominique will be at the party. Roark is rude to the hostess and cool with Dominique: neither mentions the rape at Dominique's home.

An internal monologue would be a running list of the thoughts going through a character's mind that are unsaid while a particular event is occuring. Write internal monologues for both Roark and Dominique during their conversation at the cocktail party.

32. In Chapter 7, Dominique writes a column that savages the Enright House. She takes further actions to undermine Roark's success, including telling Joel Sutton, who had been considering hiring Roark, to go with Peter Keating for his next building because Sutton wants the architecture to be more conventional than Dominique thinks Roark will provide. She even goes to the extent of visiting Roark and explaining her plan to destroy him, because she desires him so strongly and yet cannot possess him.

Based on what you know about Enright House from the story, write a review responding to Dominique's review. Do you agree with her opinion about the way Enright House was built, or do you find it to be a positive contribution to architecture? Use specific information from the novel to support your opinion.

33. Sometimes it is easy to predict what will happen between two characters, particularly a male or female lead, as the story nears its midpoint. Sometimes it is very difficult to make that prediction, particularly in stories built on irony.

Based on what has happened so far in the story, do you think that Howard Roark will end up with Dominique Francon? Why or why not? Do you think that Howard Roark should marry Dominique Francon? Why or why not?

34. In social circles, Dominique is making appearance after appearance on the arm of Peter Keating. However, she also makes nighttime visits to Howard Roark for passionate trysts, and during the day, she tries to bury Roark's professional career. Her vitriol is somewhat ambivalent, though, as evidenced by her assertion that no one should be permitted to live in Enright House—this could be condemnation, or it could be awe.

You are a society columnist for the *Banner*. Write a gossip column about Dominique, Howard and Keating, summarizing all of the rumors you have heard and making your own pronouncement about this particular love triangle.

35. The affair between Roark and Dominique appears to imply that it is impossible to have a passionate relationship without a conflict in which one partner ends up being forced to submit to the other.

However, one could also argue that theirs is the only relationship in the book that has two people being absolutely honest with one another. Roark is completely aware of Dominique's passion at night, as well as her attempts to ruin him during the day. Dominique is completely aware of Roark's feeling of ownership over her.

And so which is it? In your opinion, is the passion between Roark and Dominique based on a dynamic of ownership and possession, or of complete honesty and candor? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

36. Ellsworth Toohey has expended his considerable speechmaking talents in praise of the mediocre. He spends a great deal of time trying to tear down the geniuses of architecture. One might argue that he does this because he knows that his own work will never reach the ranks of genius or so that he does not want anyone else getting recognition on a higher level than his own.

Do you know anyone like Toohey, in the sense that they tear down those that are greater them, in order to make themselves look better? Have you ever done anything like Toohey does here? Explain it in a sentence or two.

37. In Chapter 11, Roark designs the Stoddard temple to be horizontal, and on the same scale as the height of a human. His purpose here is to make the visitor feel strong, rather than to intimidate the visitor by sheer scale, as many religious buildings did before the modern era.

In your place of worship, what is the scale? Do you worship in a building that could seat thousands and has a multistory ceiling, or is the space small and intimate? How does it make you feel to worship in that environment? Write a note to a friend inviting him or her to services at the church, mosque, or synagogue you attend. If, however, you do not go to a public place for religious reasons, or you do not believe in religion, explain why, as if you had received the invitation.

38. Stoddard's response to Howard Roark's temple design shows his absolute distaste for the way things turn out. He cancels the opening and sues Roark for architectural malpractice, as well as breaking their contract. When the lawsuit goes to trial, a good number of well-known New York architects take the stand against Roark, and the only defense that Roark offers is ten photographs of the temple itself.

Pretend that you are a writer for an independent newspaper or magazine, and you are covering the trial for your publication. Write an article summarizing the trial from an objective perspective—in other words, you are not putting Rand's spin on events, nor are you putting Stoddard's (or the other architects') spin on events.

39. After the lawsuit is over, the Stoddard Temple is redesigned and changed into the Stoddard Home for Subnormal Children. One night, Roark goes to see the newly designed building and the ways in which its original design and intentions have been radically overhauled.

Imagine that you are the obituary writer for the *Banner*. Write an obituary for the original Stoddard Temple, as though the building were actually a person. You may choose whether to slant your writing in favor of Roark, or in favor of those who think the same way as Ellsworth Toohey.

40. Look back on the way in which Chapters 11-15 have been narrated. Particularly, notice the ways in which journalistic outlets are used as a source of information. This is a sign of the times in which *The Fountainhead* was written. In that time, people received their information in print. Newspapers came out twice a day, morning and evening, in addition to any special editions that might come out for extraordinary events.

In our own time, we have many more forms of media that arrive in much swifter passion. Television provides a visual source of information that is updated almost by the minute. The Internet not only has news websites that are updated constantly, but also has blog sites that provide running commentary on events almost as soon as they are made public.

Take one of the five chapters in this section and summarize it as it would appear on a blog. As with any blog, your grammar should be nonstandard, and abbreviations should be common.

41. From the events of Part II, it is fairly clear that Peter Keating and Howard Roark have significantly different ideas about the definition and meaning behind the marriage vows.

Imagine that you are a minister in charge of writing vows for two upcoming ceremonies: one for Peter Keating and Dominique Francon, and one for Howard Roark and Dominique Francon. Write the two sets of vows, and then look at the differences that appear.

What is significant about the differences between the two sets of vows? What do these differences tell us about the two men's divergent views on the importance of marriage? Explain it to a classmate who doesn't understand.

#### Part III

42. Chapter 1 discusses the wildly cynical contest that Gail Wynand ran for his readers when he took over the *Gazette* and turned it into the *Banner* simultaneously running fundraising drives for a scientific genius and the pregnant girlfriend of a convicted murderer who had been put to death. Wynand uses the fact that the girlfriend's cause raised far more money than the genius to infer what would be most interesting to his readers, and to guide the priorities that he would set for news coverage.

Watch a news show at home one evening. What kinds of stories come first in the newscast, and what receive the most priority from the anchors? Write a letter to the station manager of the channel whose newscast you watched and indicate whether or not you agree with the priorities given to each story.

43. The Wynand poll would have been considered a groundbreaking journalistic tool in the era in which *The Fountainhead* was written. However, in our own time, polls appear on just about every newscast as part of information in a variety of stories. Also, websites in particular use polls to gauge the readership's opinion on a variety of topics.

In what ways do you notice polls being used the most in the media? Describe a poll in which you recently took part. Why did you take part in it? What was the poll about? Were you in the majority or the minority? If you take part in polls frequently, do you generally side with the majority or the minority? Why do you think that is? If you've never taken part in a poll, explain your feelings about them.

44. In Chapter 3, when Wynand meets Dominique, they have an instant sense of connection. Dominique senses that she can abuse herself and gain advantage for Keating by sleeping with Wynand, while Wynand is obviously drawn to Dominique's physical beauty.

However, Wynand inserts irony into the situation by refusing Dominique's offer to trade sex for a commission. Dominique's assumption that her sexual power will give her an advantage in any situation not involving Howard Roark is thus proven wrong.

Write the diary entry that you believe Dominique would have written after being rejected by Gail Wynand. How do you think the rejection affected her emotionally, if at all? Why would she voluntarily undergo such selfabuse to benefit a man she is married to but does not love?

45. Dominique's attempt to sleep with Gail Wynand is one way that she tries to use him in the story. Similarly, Howard Roark uses Dominique when he sleeps with her.

Is the way in which Dominique tries to use Wynand more or less unethical than Roark's continued use of Dominique for his own personal satisfaction? If you think Dominique's attempts are more unethical, write a letter to her indicating the reasons for your opinion. If you think that Roark's continued use of Dominique is more unethical, write a letter to him indicating the reasons for your opinion.

46. Gail Wynand ultimately accepts Dominique's offer, but on his terms. He goes to Keating and offers him the Stoneridge commission, if Keating will give him Dominique as his wife. In Chapter 4, Wynand and Dominique head out for a cruise on the *I Do*, which is Wynand's yacht.

According to Wynand, he named the yacht *I Do* because, when he was a child, he was always told that he was not the one who ran things, and the name of his yacht is meant to repudiate those people.

Are there other levels of meaning at work in the name of this yacht? Write a poem of between ten and twenty lines, in which you explore the possible meanings of the name. Be sure to utilize figurative language and imagery to express the meanings you have in mind.

47. Throughout the book, it is clear that Peter Keating has a void inside him that he is unable to fill. He has reached the pinnacle of professional success as an architect, and yet he feels unsatisfied. He has married one of the most beautiful women in his social circle, after being able to cast off the highly desirable Katie, and yet he feels unsatisfied.

Write a letter to Peter Keating from the perspective of Ayn Rand. Explain to Peter Keating the cause of his void, and some concrete steps he could take to eliminate it.

48. In Chapter 5, Dominique finds Howard Roark at a construction site in Clayton, Ohio. She tells him of her plans to marry Gail Wynand, even though she does not want him, nor even desire him physically. The conversation is clearly one that pains her, although he comes off as unaffected.

Why do you think that Roark is so aloof with Dominique?

Think about a relationship that either you, a friend of yours, or a family member of yours has experienced that has been one-sided emotionally. Describe how that relationship began, developed, and ended (if it has ended). If it has not ended, predict the future success of that relationship.

49. The reading of Ike's play is intended to show that mediocrity has infiltrated all areas of human endeavor, not just architecture. There will never be very much that is truly innovative and new, as the backlog of styles that have been trendy in the past will always be easier to emulate than it will be to come up with something refreshing and unique.

Consider the works of architecture you have experienced, either because they are in your city, or because you learned about them in art appreciation or world history courses. Select one work of architecture that you especially enjoyed. Describe what you enjoyed most about it. What makes it striking to you?

50. In Chapter 8, Gail Wynand and Dominique Francon spend their two-week honeymoon in their penthouse, and they spend that time getting to know each other better and better.

Imagine that Gail Wynand kept a personal diary during the two weeks of their honeymoon. Write at least four different entries that Wynand would have written during those weeks. Focus on what Wynand learns, in your opinion, about Dominique's views about the possibility of perfection and her true opinion about him.

51. In Chapter 9, Dominique accuses Wynand of trying to take over control of the *Banner* so that, eventually, he can take control of the world. Wynand laughs at what he considers to be the silliness of her remark.

In your opinion, what would one have to control in order to have effective control over the entire world? Would it be enough to own a major newspaper? Would one have to own a major corporation, such as Coca-Cola? Would one have to be the political leader of a superpower that slowly established control over more and more of the globe? Write a letter to Dominique explaining your idea of what it would take to control the entire planet.

#### Part IV

52. In 1935, Howard Roark designed a resort for middle-class tourists in the Monadnock Valley. He had gone before the board, begged for the commission, and received it. In an instance of dramatic irony, the board gave him the commission because they were wagering that the resort would fail, and they were aware of Roark's reputation as a failed architect. However, the irony twisted back on the board because the resort was fully booked before it even opened.

Imagine that you are a reporter for *Life* magazine. Write an article about the Monadnock Valley resort, including comments from potential future customers, as well as from members of the board and Howard Roark. You may need to look up the name "Monadnock Valley" on the Internet to obtain information on it.

53. In the first three chapters of Part IV, Wynand and Roark get to know one another. They develop an appreciation for the similarities that they share, especially about the struggles they have faced to achieve their current positions in life.

Wynand is not aware of the ongoing affair between Roark and Dominique, and Dominique does not become aware that they had even met until the men have known each other for a while.

Think about some of the similarities and differences between the relationship between Roark and Dominique, and the relationship between Roark and Wynand. Imagine that you were a close friend of Roark's. Write a letter to Roark informing him which relationship is healthier, and your reasons for your opinion.

54. At the end of Chapter 4, Wynand calls Ellsworth Toohey into his office and orders him not to write any more columns about Howard Roark. Toohey agrees, which is a sign that Wynand has retained enough power to keep Toohey away from one of his favorite subjects for ridicule.

Imagine that Toohey decides to rebel against Wynand and write another column insulting and criticizing Roark. Write that column from Toohey's point of view. Would you choose to point out Wynand's censorship or not? Why or why not?

55. In the first five chapters of Part IV: two trends run parallel to one another. Ellsworth Toohey's power increases, in the sense that his overall influence becomes wider and wider; at the same time, Howard Roark's architecture becomes more and more powerful.

The conflict between these two men becomes the central conflict of the story: can a great artist overcome the mediocrity of the rest of the art world? Can truly powerful art overcome the evil of men like Toohey?

In our own time, what social trend represents an evil as horrid as Toohey? What trends are there in our own time that combats that evil? Write an editorial for your school newspaper identifying the evil and suggesting ways to overcome it.

56. In Chapter 8, Peter Keating and Howard Roark come to an uneasy compromise in their collaboration on the Cortlandt Homes project. Keating understands that, while he will receive the credit for the design, and all of the income, Roark will receive the joy of solving an architectural puzzle and building the perfect housing project.

Which would you rather have from a situation? Would you rather design something perfect and never receive any public credit for that work, or would you rather reap the wealth and the publicity from someone else's work, even though you did not have to do anything for it? Explain your reasoning in a paragraph or two.

58. In Chapter 10, Peter Keating runs into Katie on the way home from work. Keating notices that Katie has lost her spirit, and the only sources of solace for her involve giving of herself and contributing to charity. She tells him that his marriage to Dominique gave her a lot of pain, but that she has learned, over time, that it is useless to fight one's fate.

Interestingly, Keating uses this observation to declare that the worst mistake of his entire lifetime was his decision to reject Katie and marry Dominique instead. He then whines that it is extremely difficult to do what you really want. Katie finds this to be a very selfish observation.

Write the diary entry that Katie would write after returning home from running into Keating. What would her inner emotional response to this situation be?

59. When he is just about through with the Cortlandt Homes project, Roark goes on a long sailing trip with Gail Wynand. At one point, the two men discuss what it actually means to be "selfless."

As one might expect, Roark comes up with a fairly controversial definition of selflessness. He refers to people who are selfless as "second-handers" who only have a vicarious form of existence, experiencing everything through other people. He goes on to place independence of spirit and selflessness in opposition.

Write a poem of between ten and thirty lines about the "second-handers," from Roark's point of view. What is their life like? Why is their life empty? Use figurative language and imagery in the poem to express Roark's perspective.

60. When Howard Roark returns from his sailing trip with Gail Wynand, he visits the Cortlandt Homes construction site and observes that new exterior features have been added to his design that cover the existing façade. Roark comes up with a plan to destroy the housing project and enlists Dominique to pretend that she has run out of gas, and to ask the project's night watchman to get her some. While the watchman is gone, the Cortlandt building explodes.

Dominique's car is crushed in the wreckage. She takes a piece of broken glass and cuts herself, wedging herself back into the car to make it look like she never left.

Have you ever lied to make yourself appear innocent in a particular situation? If not, has it happened to someone you know? Describe the situation, what motivated the central person to hurt himself/herself, and how the situation turned out.

61. The morning after the Cortlandt building is blown up, Dominique wakes up back in the penthouse with Wynand. He is glad that the building was blown up, although he disapproves of Dominique for getting close to the blast.

At this point, Dominique realizes that Wynand has not yet guessed the actual nature of her relationship with Howard Roark. This realization makes her sad, although not sad enough to reveal to Wynand what is actually going on.

Write the e-mail that Dominique would send to a friend of hers explaining this sadness. Is there a conflict within her as to whether or not to come clean, in your opinion? If so, include it; if not, indicate why she does not feel this conflict. What would you do in this situation and why would you do it? Explain your reasoning in a few sentences.

62. In Chapter 15, Ellsworth Toohey finally rebels against Wynand's censorship and publishes a column that criticizes Howard Roark. Wynand promptly responds by firing, not just Toohey, but also the editors who approved Toohey's column for print.

By this time, though, Toohey has established enough influence within the union that works for the *Banner* that his firing is cause for a strike. This strike not only demands the reinstatement of the dismissed employees, but also a repudiation of the stance the paper has taken in favor of Howard Roark.

Write the speech that you think Toohey would have given to the Union of Wynand Employees between his dismissal from the paper and their subsequent strike. Emulate his rich rhetorical style as closely as you can.

63. The general strike places Wynand in quite a bind. He runs the *Bannen* on the thinnest of work crews, because it is almost impossible to find workers who will cross the union's picket lines. The newspapers that do appear in print go unsold, as a general boycott has also taken effect. Just as Stalin undid Trotsky in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, so Toohey appears ready to unseat Wynand and take over power of the *Banner*.

What do you think will happen next? Will Wynand give in to the demands of the Union of Wynand Employees? Or will he hold firm, waiting for the union to cave in? Write a prediction and give reasons from the story that support your opinion.

64. In Chapter 17, Dominique arranges events to publicize her affair with Howard Roark, once and for all. She also uses the events to benefit Wynand, but the publicized affair results in their divorce: the *Banner* writes that Dominique had forced Wynand to defend Roark in the paper, and the general public sympathetically forgives Wynand for his earlier folly.

Write the newspaper article that would have appeared after the police and two reporters converge on Roark's house in the Monadnock Valley and find Dominique there, wearing Roark's pajamas.

65. At the end of the novel, Howard Roark stands on the top girder of the Wynand Building, which he has designed as a final statement of protest for Gail Wynand against the world.

Consider this scene in comparison with the opening of the novel. What has changed inside Howard Roark? How has he developed throughout the story?

Pretend you have agreed to be Roark's biographer. Put together a short outline of the major events of the novel as they affect Roark, as well as an outline of Roark's personal growth during the story.

## Wrap-Up

69. There is a great deal of turmoil in interpersonal relationships throughout *The Fountainhead*. One of the most intriguing relationships is that between Peter Keating and Dominique. This is an example of two people abusing themselves by remaining in a relationship: Dominique cannot stand Keating, and Keating has Dominique as a constant reminder of the growing void within him.

Does Keating ever truly love Dominique? Does he ever truly love anyone in the novel besides himself? Pretend that you are Keating's therapist and explain to him the true loves of his life.

70. Gail Wynand is very satisfied by the fact that both he and Roark came from "nothing" to stand at the very pinnacle of their professions.

What do you think would be Wynand's bequests to those around him? Write the last will and testament that you believe Wynand would put together in preparation for his own passing.

#### Test

- 1. What makes Peter Keating go to New York and accept a job from Guy Francon?
  - A. It is Howard Roark's idea.
  - B. Peter is interested in Dominique and would like to get to know her.
  - C. Peter's mother talks him into going.
  - D. In New York, Peter would be able to start his dream career as a painter.
- 2. What was the first building that Roark designed?
  - A. Enright House
  - B. The Cosmo-Slotnick Building
  - C. The Stoddard Temple
  - D. The Heller House
- 3. When Howard Roark is at Stanton, where does he live?
  - A. He lives with one of his professors.
  - B. He rents a room from Henry Cameron.
  - C. He lives with the Keating family.
  - D. He has a small apartment near the campus.
- 4. Henry Cameron asks Roark to leave his office because
  - A. he realizes Roark will suffer during his career.
  - B. he does not have the money to pay Roark what he deserves.
  - C. none of his clients would want Roark to be their designer.
  - D. Roark has a reputation for bucking authority.
- 5. When Gail Wynand first appears in the novel, what is he doing?
  - A. Preparing his boat for sea
  - B. Preparing to commit suicide
  - C. Lecturing Ellsworth Toohey
  - D. Leering at Dominique Francon

- 6. What motivates Stephen Mallory to try to murder Ellsworth Toohey?
  - A. Mallory realizes how treacherous Toohey can be.
  - B. Toohey used his power to steal commissions from Mallory.
  - C. Mallory wants Wynand to keep control of the Banner.
  - D. Mallory has just been released from an insane asylum.
- 7. What is the reason behind the name of Gail Wynand's yacht? (*I Do*)
  - A. It is a sarcastic joke about his life as a bachelor.
  - B. It repudiates everyone who ever told him that he was not the person in charge.
  - C. It shows what he expects Dominique to say when he proposes to her.
  - D. It expresses his willingness to give in to his union's demands.
- 8. At first, Roark sees a lot of problems in the Stoddard commission, but he eventually accepts it. What causes this change?
  - A. Roark is financially drained and could use the income.
  - B. Stoddard wins him over with his personality.
  - C. Toohey knows what Roark wants to hear and has told Stoddard what to say.
  - D. Roark knows that if Keating does the project, it will turn out badly.
- 9. Instead of returning to set the marble in Dominique's fireplace, why does Roark choose to send another worker in his place?
  - A. After what happened the first time, Dominique might call the police.
  - B. He wants Dominique to know that she wants and needs him.
  - C. He has been summoned to a meeting with Ellsworth Toohey.
  - D. The other worker needs the money from the job more than Roark does.
- 10. How does Dominique find fault with the sketches of the Enright House?
  - A. She can see that it will have many structural issues.
  - B. She does not feel that the world is ready for it.
  - C. She would rather see Toohey prosper than Roark.
  - D. She finds the exterior to be too dreary.

- 11. At the Stoddard trial, for whom does Dominique take the stand?
  - A. Mallory
  - B. Toohey
  - C. Stoddard
  - D. None of the above
- 12. After Roark blows up the Cortlandt Homes, what does Dominique do next?
  - A. She calls the police and accuses Toohey of the crime.
  - B. She flees into the Monadnock Valley resort.
  - C. She admits her role and contributes to the cost of rebuilding.
  - D. She gets into her car, cuts herself, and passes out.
- 13. What motivates Toohey to send Wynand the statue of Dominique?
  - A. He wants Wynand to see him as a friend.
  - B. He would like Wynand to hate Dominique.
  - C. He is trying to get Wynand romantically interested in Dominique.
  - D. The statue has brought a curse into Toohey's home.
- 14. Why does the resort board hire Roark to build the Monadnock Valley project?
  - A. He has the reputation as the worst architect in the United States.
  - B. Roark's ingenious skills will make the project wildly profitable.
  - C. Gail Wynand sends letters to the board urging them to hire Roark.
  - D. Dominique is a member of the project board.
- 15. What is the Union of Wynand Employees?
  - A. They operate Wynand's newspaper.
  - B. They are a group of workers fiercely loyal to Ellsworth Toohey.
  - C. They force Wynand to oppose Roark publicly.
  - D. All of the above

- 16. At the Stoddard trial, what defense does Roark offer?
  - A. He gives a melodramatic speech about the perfection of his designs.
  - B. He submits ten photographs of the temple.
  - C. He agrees to pay for the redesign of the temple.
  - D. He does not even bother to appear in court.
- 17. Roark represents himself at the Cortlandt trial, which means he gets to assist in jury selection. What kind of people does he look for?
  - A. artsy, liberal people who appreciate different types of buildings
  - B. people who know a lot about blowing up buildings
  - C. people who are likely to convict him of the crime
  - D. college graduates
- 18. When Roark is acquitted by the jury, he first looks at
  - A. Toohey
  - B. Keating
  - C. Wynand
  - D. Dominique
- 19. How does Dominique publicize the fact that she and Roark are lovers?
  - A. She writes a letter about it to the Banner.
  - B. She reports a false crime at Roark's home.
  - C. She invites Wynand over to Roark's home early one morning.
  - D. She places an advertisement on radio stations.
- 20. At last, Wynand and the *Banner* turn their back on Roark. Roark responds by
  - A. forgiving Wynand in a letter.
  - B. dynamiting the Wynand building.
  - C. burning copies of the Banner.
  - D. taking off his clothes and standing on the edge of a cliff.

# Test Student Answer Sheet

Name:	
1	11
2	12
3	13
4	14
5	15
6	16
7	17
8	18
9	19
10	20

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# Test Answer Key

1.\_\_\_C\_\_

11.\_\_\_D\_\_

2.\_\_\_D\_\_

12.\_\_\_D\_\_

3.\_\_\_C\_\_

13.\_\_\_C\_\_

4.\_\_\_A\_\_

14.\_\_\_A\_\_

5.\_\_\_B\_\_

15.\_\_\_D\_\_

6.\_\_\_A\_\_

16.\_\_\_B\_\_

7.\_\_\_B\_\_

17.\_\_\_C\_\_

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9.\_\_\_B\_\_

19.\_\_\_B\_\_

10.\_\_B\_\_

20.\_\_\_A\_\_

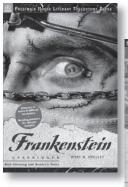
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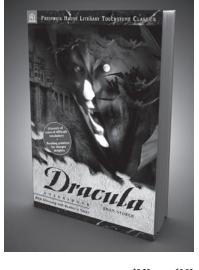
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