

Course syllabus developed with funding from:

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Worksheet for *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (New York: New American Library, 2009) seminar project. Read the “Introduction” (pages vii—xviii) and *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (pages 3—167). Using the information gained from reading *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, answer the following questions and submit on _____. Support your answers with passages and/or page numbers.

Worksheet Rubric (do not mark, project begins at the bottom of this page)

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Answered all questions: (40 points possible)	_____	_____
(If yes, move to item #3)		
1a. Number of questions skipped (0.8 points each)		_____
1b. Number of skipped pages. (3.5 points each)		_____
1c. Value of skipped question:	_____	
1d. Value of each skipped page:	_____	
2. Worksheet Score		_____ /40

(Value of skipped questions and pages subtracted from total value) _____

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
3. All questions answered with <u>evidence</u> or an <u>extensive</u> response (Up to 10 points extra).	_____	_____ Stop. No extra credit
3a. <u>Additional Worksheet Score</u> Questions answered with evidence (up to 5 extra points)		_____
3a. <u>Additional Worksheet Score</u> Questions answered with extensive responses (up to 5 extra points)		_____
4. Total Worksheet Score		_____ /40

QUESTIONS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE

Introduction

1. What was Khrushchev's tragic flaw?
2. What were Khrushchev's inconsistencies?
3. What is Ivan Denisovich's main goal?
4. What does Ivan Denisovich consider important?
5. What type of citizen (Soviet) was Solzhenitsyn?

6. What is the importance of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*?

7. What did Alexander Solzhenitsyn think about Western democracy, communism, and post-communist Russia?

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

8. What is the law of the taiga?

9. Keep an eye on the cultural make-up of the people within *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Who are these people (Ethnicity? Religion? Professions? Career?)?

10. What is your only salvation in cold, dark Siberia?

11. What are Chetezes?

12. What are the guard's attitudes towards the zeks?

13. Why is work like a stick?

14. What is the zeks relationship to time?

15. What is the value of salt pork?

16. Why might Captain Buinovsky have a rough future?

17. Why are the thoughts of prisoners not free?

18. What is happening on the Kolkhoz?

19. Who can and cannot be cheated?

20. Why might Fetiukov be a jackal?

21. Why is pride a problem for zeks?

22. Why might Siberia be used for prison?

23. How do you get zeks to work (instead of just lazily going through the motions)?

24. Why does Ivan Denisovich care about his work?

25. Who was Bendera?

26. What is the association between the law, the crime, and a zeks sentence?

27. What was Ivan Denisovich's crime?

28. Why does food rationed for zeks becomes a pittance by the time it actually reaches them?

29. Who is Eisenstein?

30. What is the hazard of being a Kulak's son?

31. How does the 104th respond to Der's threats?

32. As the 104th frantically try to finish their mortar work, Ivan Denisovich compares Captain Buinovsky to a horse. Why is this a scary comparison?

33. What is the benefit of being the first work crew back to the camp?

34. What was the Captain's crime?

35. What is a zeks enemy?

36. Within the camp, who are the workers at the kitchen, at the parcel office, or maintaining general order?

37. How do those in positions (question #36) treat run-of-the-mill zeks?

38. When Ivan Denisovich noticed Gopchik with another tray, Ivan thought that Gopchik will do well. What is the power in this seemingly bland observation?

39. Who is Old Whiskers?

40. Why is Tsezar's jackpot a payday for others?

41. What are the long-term prognoses for ten and fifteen days in the cell?

42. What is zek time?

43. What was Alyosha's crime?

44. Why is Alyosha accepting of his life in the Gulag?

45. Why might Alyosha have a hard life in the Gulag?

46. What is an ECONOMIC rationale for the state to send people by the millions to labor camps in Siberia?

47. In Fyodor Dostoevsky's notes from underground, the main character has disengaged from society. How would that policy work for Ivan Denisovich?

48. In 1963, the political theorist Hannah Arendt coined the phrase "banality of evil." How might the Gulag/Stalin's terror fit as an expression of the banality of evil?

49. What would you have done if you were in Ivan Denisovich's place?