



STUDY GUIDE

Understanding Ayn Rand

KEY TERMS:

philosopher
Capitalism

Communism
government intervention

individual rights
reason

Detail Focus: Complete this section <u>during</u> the video.	Main Summary Focus: Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>1. What did Ayn Rand experience first hand during the Russian Revolution?</p> <p>2. What happens when people are free to produce and trade and when the government is limited to protecting rights?</p> <p>3. What did Ayn Rand regard as the only moral social system?</p>	<p>1. What are the key themes in <i>Atlas Shrugged</i>?</p> <p>2. What are the salient tenets of Rand's view on Capitalism?</p>

Discussion & Review Questions

1. Towards the beginning of the video, Ms. Alvarez contends that, “When people are free to produce and trade, and when the government is limited to protecting rights, everyone benefits. Individuals thrive. Societies prosper.” Why do you think that this is the case? In other words, why do the conditions of individual freedom and limited government protecting rights result in a prosperous society? Explain.
2. As part of explaining the plot of the book, Ms. Alvarez points out that, “In *Atlas Shrugged*, she [Ayn Rand] showed how easily a free society can collapse into a dictatorship. The heroine, Dagny Taggart, works tirelessly and brilliantly to save her family’s railroad business, while ever-increasing government interventions destroy businesses and crush the economy. ...As the economy crumbles, how do politicians, bureaucrats and academics react? They blame ‘the greedy businessman’ and decry the profit motive and free markets. Their solution: more government intervention which, of course, only makes the problem worse.” Why do you think Leftists claim that free markets and profits are evil and are to blame for a poor economy? Why do government interventions almost always make problems worse? Explain.
3. Later on in the video, Ms. Alvarez notes that, “*Atlas Shrugged* is a cautionary tale about pursuing equality over excellence, state control over free markets, but it’s also about the power of the individual and the power of reason. The individual’s reasoning mind, Rand argued, is his tool of knowledge— his only means of understanding what is true or false, how the world works, what is good or bad for his life.” Why do you think that some people would rather pursue equality over excellence? Explain. Do you agree with Ms. Rand that knowledge (i.e. the understanding of information to some degree) is the only way to know truth, how the world works, and what is good or bad for one’s self? Why or why not?
4. Ms. Alvarez goes on to explain that, “This is the theme of Rand’s work more broadly: In order to thrive, to achieve happiness, the individual must think for himself and live by the judgment of his own mind. To do this people must be free- free to voluntarily exchange ideas, goods and services for mutual benefit; free to speak their minds without fear. For this, she regarded Capitalism not only as the best, but as the only moral social system.” What do you think ‘live by the judgment of his own mind’ means? Explain. What makes the *voluntary* aspect of exchange the key factor in determining Capitalism to be moral? Explain.
5. Towards the end of the video, Ms. Alvarez shares with us why Ayn Rand thought Capitalism to be so moral- that according to Rand, “‘Capitalism does not tell men to suffer, but to pursue enjoyment and achievement,’ she argued. ‘Capitalism does not preach passivity, humility, resignation, but independence, self-confidence, self-reliance.’ Above all, Rand emphasized, Capitalism does not permit anyone to expect or demand the unearned.” Why do you think that Ms. Rand considered enjoyment, achievement, independence, self-confidence, and self-reliance better than, indeed more moral than, passivity, humility, and resignation? Explain. Do you agree with Ms. Rand here? Why or why not? What does ‘not permit anyone to expect or demand the unearned’ mean, and why is this notion so important?

Extend the Learning:

Case Study Canada

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the articles “Canadian man jailed for calling his biologically female child as ‘daughter’” and “Father arrested for discussing child’s gender transition in defiance of court order,” then answer the questions that follow.

1. Who is Robert Hoogland, and why was he jailed? When did Mr. Hoogland start noticing differences in the behavior of his daughter? When did his daughter start referring to herself as a male? What did the school counselor do? What does Mr. Hoogland accuse the school of doing on its own initiative? How does Mr. Hoogland characterize his opposition to his child’s sex change? What did the Supreme Court say about his position? What is Justice Boden’s position on the matter? What did Justice Boden order? According to the second article, when did Mr. Hoogland begin litigation to stop his child’s sex change? What did the high court order him to do? What did Chief Justice Robert Bauman and Justice Barbara Fisher write in their decision about Mr. Hoogland’s relationship with his child? How long could Mr. Hoogland potentially go to jail for?
2. Do you think that the father should be criminally penalized in this case? Why or why not? Do you think that the government should allow a medical procedure to happen on a child if both parents (and possibly the child too) don’t agree? Why or why not? Why do you think that the court is not giving the father’s reasoning and moral position equal weight to the mother’s reasoning and moral position? Do you think it should? Why or why not? How involved do you think the school staff should be in a case like this? Explain. Mr. Hoogland characterized the approval of hormone suppression for his child as ‘state-sponsored child abuse.’ Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. What do you think Ayn Rand would have thought of this case? Explain. Do you think that Canada is ‘less free’ for having a legal system that can criminalize the use of conventional pronouns? Why or why not?

Canadian man jailed for calling his biologically female child as ‘daughter’

At the heart of Hoogland’s miseries is a gender non-conforming 14-year-old biological female who identifies as transgender and prefers the use of male pronouns.

18 March, 2021

OpIndia Staff



Canadian Robert Hoogland is fighting the province of British Columbia against her daughter's gender transitioning (Source: The BL)

In a tragic case, a man in Canada was jailed for referring to his biological female child as ‘daughter’. Robert Hoogland, a father of a teenage girl, has been jailed by a Canadian court for calling his biological female child his “daughter,” and referring to her with the pronouns “she” and “her.” Hoogland was found to be in contempt of court.

At the heart of Hoogland’s miseries is a gender non-conforming 14-year-old biological female who identifies as transgender and prefers the use of male pronouns. Hoogland repeatedly called the person as his daughter, even after court proscribed him from doing it.

As a result, the Attorney General of British Columbia issued an arrest warrant for contempt, following which Hoogland surrendered himself to the court on Tuesday at 10 am. He was arrested and taken to jail.

In December 2020, Hoogland was forced by a collude to conform to his daughter's gender "transitioning" and told him to not call his biological female child his daughter. In response, Hoogland made a *Charter* challenge engaging his right to freedom of speech.

Father accuses his daughter's school for encouraging her to identify herself as a male

In his defence, Hoogland claimed that he started noticing differences in the behaviour of his daughter when she was in the sixth grade and had increasingly begun to behave more like a tomboy. The girl was spending most of her time with boys her age and was constantly landing herself in trouble. When she came in grade 7, he noticed she cut off her long hair and started wearing a toupé. He said that she developed intense crushes on two male teachers, and made a suicide attempt. Hoogland even consulted with the school faculties in the hopes of improving some of her bad habits.

According to Hoogland, his daughter started referring to herself as a male after watching the pro-transgender film "Handsome and Majestic" at school. Hoogland was aghast when his daughter accosted him and told him that she would like to enrol in the seventh-grade under a male name rather than her own. Hoogland was indignant of the school officials for backing his daughter's demand and what to him seemed like a falsehood. He expressed his displeasure with the police, but to no avail.

To his dismay, Hoogland later discovered that it was the school that started to pressure the girl to change her gender. The school counsellor with whom he had met and raised his concerns about his daughter, had actually made the change in the yearbook and encouraged the girl to embrace a male identity. According to British Columbia's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) regulation, the child's parents were not informed of the changes. The school went a step further by referring to her with a male name and allowing her to use the male-only bathroom. In fact, Hoogland accused the school of "socially transitioning" the biologically female child on its own initiative, with the input of a gender ideologue psychologist, Dr Wallace Wong.

Courts rejects father's views, mandates him to affirm the child's changed gender or face jail term

Determined to oppose her daughter's medical transition, Hoogland submitted in court that his daughter needs an emotional affirmation and not a medical intervention to yank her out of her transgender delusions. However, the court did not consider Hoogland's views and blamed the changes in his daughter on gender dysphoria.

Opposing her daughter's "gender affirmative" medical procedures, Hoogland said children are not prone to thinking about the future, they live in the present and take decision based on their current feelings. "They don't make decisions based on playing the tape forward and thinking down the road. Kids aren't thinking at that age about having families or having children," he said.

Hoogland says his opposition to the sex change of his daughter is unwavering and resolute, in the desperate hope to save his child from irreversible harm. However, doctors, school administrators, mother and now the Supreme Court all agree that her father lacks the authority to make such a decision and that he must reconcile to the fact and refer to his daughter using correct pronouns.

While Hoogland believes that his daughter's best interests lie in preserving his child's health, Justice Boden decided that the child's best interests lay in damaging her long-term health to make her body more like that of a male. Hoogland believes that the damage caused by the sexual transition of her daughter would be irreparable and irreversible if after her puberty ends, she is dawned with the realisation of her correct sex.

Not only did Justice Boden held that the father's consent to her daughter's transition is irrelevant, but he also declared that the girl's parent must affirm their child's "gender identity", and refer to the child as a boy because she considers herself as one. If he did not, the parents would be implicated in the criminal offence of family violence.

Digital platforms thwarted Hoogland from raising his views on the matter

On his predicament, Hoogland lamented, "Here I am, sitting there as a parent, watching a perfectly healthy child be destroyed, and there's nothing I can do but sit on the sideline according to Justice Boden at the time. I can only affirm, or get thrown in jail."

Hoogland brought his side of the story by talking to several Canadian commentators. However, the broadcasts were suppressed by digital platforms and he was threatened with contempt of court of proceedings.

<https://nypost.com/2021/03/18/man-arrested-for-discussing-childs-gender-in-court-order-violation/>

Father arrested for discussing child's gender transition in defiance of court order

By Jesse O'Neill

March 18, 2021 | 10:46pm | Updated



A Canadian man was arrested this week after violating a court order that banned him from speaking publicly about his son's gender transition. YouTube

A Canadian man was arrested this week after violating a court order that banned him from speaking publicly about his son's gender transition.

The man — whose identity is reportedly under a publication ban by a British Columbia Court of Appeals to protect his child — was found in contempt of court and arrested Tuesday for calling the teen his daughter and publicly referring to him with the pronouns “she” and “her,” according to The Post Millennial.

The teenager was born as a female and reportedly identifies as transgender and prefers the use of male pronouns.

The father reportedly began litigation against the teen's mother after learning of the transition, and the matter was settled by the province's highest court earlier this year, according to Global News. The parents are separated.

The high court ordered the dad to not stand in the way of the 15-year-old's hormone therapy and to try and better understand gender dysphoria, the outlet reported. He was also told to stop speaking to the media about the case and warned that his public attempts to undermine his child's wishes was a form of family violence, according to the article.

His son has identified as male since the age of 11, and changed his name at age 12 before pursuing hormone therapy with the support of his mother, a psychologist and an endocrinologist, according to Canadian law firm Torkin Manes.



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“[The father's] refusal to respect [the boy's] decisions regarding his gender identity is troublesome,” Chief Justice Robert Bauman and Justice Barbara Fisher wrote in the January decision, according to Global News.

The father's rejection of his son's identity has caused the boy "significant pain" that has "resulted in a rupture of what both parties refer to as an otherwise loving parent-child relationship," justices reportedly wrote.

This rupture is not in [the boy's] best interests," the decision said, according to the outlet. "He clearly wants and needs acceptance and support from his father."

The father confirmed his legal woes on an online fundraising campaign soliciting donations.



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“The far left issued an arrest warrant on Thursday, March 04! I will be turning myself in on March 16!,” the man posted in a Go Get Funding page where he has raised more than \$22,000 Canadian amid his legal fight.

“I am fighting the far left based on a civil disobedience defense! I am now back in court for a five day criminal trial that will last at least five days . . . From April 12-16. That trial that could land me in jail for up to five years for speaking truth about state sponsored child abuse. FYI . . . I am blocked from sharing any videos at this time that oppose the sterilization of children!,” the caption continued.

The dad, and his arrest, have been lauded by some ideologues who say gender is not a biological or social construct.

“They’ve created a delusion, and they’re forcing parents to live in this delusion,” the father previously said, according to The Post Millennial.

“What happens when the bubble explodes and the delusion ends? . . . She can never go back to being a girl in the healthy body she should have had . . . These kids don’t understand. What kind of 13-year-old is thinking about having a family and kids?”



QUIZ

Understanding Ayn Rand

1. The question “Who is John Galt?” recalls _____ from Ayn Rand’s novel *Atlas Shrugged*.
 - a. a riveting suspense story
 - b. heroic characters
 - c. powerful ideas
 - d. all of the above

2. What did Ayn Rand experience first hand during the Russian Revolution?
 - a. a freer society
 - b. the privatization of businesses
 - c. the horrors of Communism
 - d. the expansion of individual rights

3. When people are free to produce and trade, and when the government is limited to protecting rights, everyone benefits. Individuals thrive. Societies prosper.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. What is *Atlas Shrugged* a cautionary tale about?
 - a. the negative consequences of pursuing equality over excellence
 - b. the negative consequences of state control over free markets
 - c. the positive power of reason
 - d. all of the above

5. Because it allows for the *voluntary* exchange of ideas, goods, and services, Ayn Rand regarded Capitalism as the only _____ social system.
 - a. functional
 - b. moral
 - c. lasting
 - d. dynamic



QUIZ: ANSWER KEY

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