

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

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SYNOPSIS

Reveille At 5 A. M. in January, 1951, in Barracks 9 of a brutal "special" stone prison camp for political dissidents on the barren, windswept Russian steppes, Ivan Denisovich wakes up to the pulse of a hammer on a railing sounding wake-up. Called Shukhov by other inmates and bearing the designation S-854 on his clothes, he is already a veteran of eight years in prison. He peers at the camp through an inch of ice on the window. For the 90 minutes until roll call, he and Gang 104 remain in bed. He considers applying for the sick list.

Beginning of the work day Above Shukhov stirs bunkmate Alyoshka, a devout Baptist. Buynovsky, a former sea captain, reports it is twenty below zero. Only a temperature of 42 below zero or colder halts the camp's construction jobs. Forced out of bed by the ward officer, Shukhov must mop the ward room floor at headquarters.

Shukhov is a native of Temgenyovo, which he left to join the war effort on June 23, 1941. He has already served seven years cutting logs at Ust-Izhma, a timber camp on the Pechora River. In 1943, he lost teeth from scurvy, suffered diarrhea and internal hemorrhaging, and nearly died. For a survivor, it is important to avoid conflict with officials. He treasures mittens, face cloths, a rope belt, and dry felt boots, all of which keep him from freezing.

Scuttling to the infirmary, Shukhov passes the big Latvian, who has received a package from home. Shukhov considers begging tobacco, but feels too ill to risk being denied hospital privileges. At the prison hospital, the medic, Nikolay Vdovushkin, takes his temperature, which is 99. He denies the legitimate request for medical attention, which Shukhov should have made the evening before.

Roll Call Shukhov returns for roll call and receives bread and sugar from Pavlo, the assistant gang boss. Shukhov stores half of his bread in a pocket he sewed into his jacket and carefully stitches up the remainder in a hole in his mattress. Tyurin, the 40-year-old gang boss, orders the 24 men to the double gate, which is guarded by dogs and armed guards. One inmate, Panteleyev, has managed to get out of work. Shukhov suspects he squeals to the authorities to evade it.

Caesar Markovich shares his cigarette with Shukhov while the scrounger Fetyukov looks on. When Gang 104 steps in line for frisking, Volkovoy, the disciplinary officer, demands their undershirts. The Captain complains stripping prisoners in the cold violates Article Nine of the Criminal Code and receives ten days in solitary confinement.

Line-up In rows of five, the men march to the power plant. Shukhov thinks about how the war started. He recalls when Tyurin selected him from the Ust-Izhma camp to be placed in the penal camp, set up by Russian dictator Joseph Stalin

under Article 58.

The Power Plant Der, the foreman from Moscow, heads up bricklayers who are building a wall. Shukhov, a carpenter, works rhythmically and contentedly with Kilgas, a bricklayer. Because the hoist motor has burned out, the rest of the crew forms a team to pass bricks and mortar up the unsteady ladder.

Shukhov, who was captured at the Northwestern Front in February, 1942, had been placed in a POW cage. After he escaped, the Russians accused him of conspiring with the enemy to gain his freedom. To avoid execution, he signed a confession.

Lunch At the noon meal, Shukhov secures an extra bowl of gruel, which he eats with the wire spoon he made at Ust-Izhma and stores in his boot. He carries a second bowl to Caesar in the office. Shukhov waits for the offer of a smoke, but departs as Caesar forgets about him.

Afternoon work Shukhov concentrates on doing neat work and keeping his feet warm. The foreman complains Shukhov and Kilgas violated rules by covering a window with roofing felt. Senka and Pavlo threaten to have Der murdered if he extends their sentences. Der accuses Shukhov of applying mortar too thin, but Shukhov refuses to be intimidated. At the end of the shift, he hides his trowel under a rock so he can retrieve it the next day.

Return to Camp Gang 104 awaits the head count with other work gangs. At moonrise, guards recount until they locate the Moldavian, who fell asleep on a scaffold. The rest of the crew mutters threats and obscenities. After repeated delays, the column marches back to the camp, where they remove their boots and stand barefoot for frisking. The guards search for tools, weapons, or bits of wood, which the men burn in the barracks stove.

Dinner At the risk of ten days in solitary, Shukhov smuggles a metal fragment in his mitten. He saves a place in the mess line for Caesar, who receives a package from home. Enriched by his package, Caesar gives his supper to Shukhov. He buys a mug of tobacco. The Captain, on his way to solitary for ten days, slips him a cigarette.

Head Count When the guards begin a head count, Shukhov helps Caesar hide his delicacies. He rejects Alyoshka's urging to pray. Shukhov is happy until interrupted by a second night check. In his bunk, he contemplates the fact he must serve 3,653 more days.

TIME LINE

- 1917 **February** Czar Nicholas II abdicates.
- November** Bolsheviks seize power.
- 1914 Isaaki Solzhenitsyn serves as artillery officer on the German front during World War I.
- 1917 **March 12-15** The Bolshevik Revolution challenges Russia's monarchy.
- March 15** Czar Nicholas II abdicates.
- March 25** Stalin becomes an editor for *Pravda*.

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- April 20** Lenin announces a republic of soviets.
- 1918 June 15** Following an accidental shotgun wound and slipshod surgery, Isaaki Solzhenitsyn dies.
- July 16** Execution of Czar Nicholas and his family.
- 1919 Dec. 11** Alexander "Sanya" Solzhenitsyn is born in Kislovodsk, Russia.
- March** Stalin joins Lenin on the Politburo.
- 1925** Stalin, jockeying for position behind Lenin, ousts Trotsky.
- 1928** Stalin, in control, tries to modernize Russia.
- 1934 December** Stalin begins an era of purges and terror.
- 1936** Solzhenitsyn finishes high school in Rostov-on-Don.
- 1939** Solzhenitsyn studies a correspondence course through the Moscow Institute of History, Philosophy, and Literature.
- August** Stalin signs a non-aggression pact with Hitler.
- 1940 April 27** Solzhenitsyn marries Natalia Reshtovskaya.
- 1941 June** Germany attacks Russia.
- 1942 November** Solzhenitsyn completes training in artillery school and is appointed commander of a reconnaissance artillery battery.
- 1945 February** Solzhenitsyn is arrested in East Prussia for calling Stalin a busybody in a letter to a friend.
- May 8** V-E day ends war in Europe.
- June** Solzhenitsyn is convicted and sentenced to eight years in a labor camp. He is taken to Lyubyanka Prison in Moscow.
- 1946** Solzhenitsyn is transferred to Marfino, a special prison conducting research for the KGB.
- 1950** Solzhenitsyn is transferred to a special camp for political prisoners, where he develops a cancerous tumor of the groin.
- 1952** Stalin plans a new purge of political dissidents.
- 1953 March 5** After being held a month beyond his term, Solzhenitsyn is exiled to Kok-terek, Siberia, 200 miles from the Chinese border, where he teaches math and physics at a rural high school.
- Stalin dies suddenly of a brain hemorrhage.
- 1954** Solzhenitsyn is cured of his tumor.
- 1956** Solzhenitsyn is freed and rejoins his wife.
- February** Khrushchev attacks Stalin's reputation.
- 1957** Solzhenitsyn teaches math in Ryazan.
- 1958** Boris Pasternak is awarded the Nobel Prize. The Kremlin refuses to allow Pasternak to attend the ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.
- 1961** Solzhenitsyn reveals his secret writing career and offers *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* for publication.
- 1962 November** *One Day* is published in the magazine *Novy Mir* but later is censored.
- Nikita Khrushchev labels *One Day* "a good book."
- 1964** *First Circle*, Solzhenitsyn's second novel, is suppressed.
- 1965** *First Circle* is confiscated.
- May** Khrushchev signals the beginning of a revival of Stalinism.
- 1966 February** A crackdown on liberals and artists begins with the trial of two novelists.
- 1967 September** Solzhenitsyn charges the KGB with the theft of his manuscripts.
- 1968 May** Solzhenitsyn protests the exclusion of dissenters from the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Russian Revolution.
- 1969** Solzhenitsyn is expelled from the Soviet Writers' Union.
- 1970 Dec. 10** Solzhenitsyn receives the Nobel Prize for literature.
- Solzhenitsyn publishes *August 1914*.
- Dec. 30** Ermolai Solzhenitsyn is born.
- 1971** *One Day* is filmed.
- 1972 September** Ignati Solzhenitsyn is born.
- 1973 March 15** Solzhenitsyn is divorced from his second wife.
- July** Solzhenitsyn marries Natalia Svetlova, the mother of Ermolai and Ignati.
- 1974 February** Solzhenitsyn is exiled from Russia.
- March 29** The Solzhenitsyn family leaves Moscow.
- December** Solzhenitsyn formally accepts the Nobel Prize in Stockholm.
- 1974 Feb. 12** Solzhenitsyn is arrested and held in Lefortovo Prison.
- August** Solzhenitsyn is expelled from the Soviet Union. He moves his family to Cavendish, Vermont.
- 1978** Solzhenitsyn earns a doctorate from Harvard.
- 1990** Mikhail Gorbachev reclaims Solzhenitsyn as a Russian hero and awards him a state prize for literature.

AUTHOR SKETCH

Alexander Solzhenitsyn—author, historian, lecturer, dissident, and champion of free speech—was born December 11, 1918, in Kislovodsk, Russia, in the central Caucasus between the Caspian and Black Seas. His father Isaaki, a philology student and war hero, had died of a septic gunshot wound resulting from a hunting accident shortly after World War I before Solzhenitsyn was born. The boy was brought up by his mother, Taissia, a stenographer in Rostov-on-Don, where he spent his childhood and graduated from high school. His youth was difficult because living conditions granted to an unmarried widow were meager, consisting of rude huts with no running water. Somehow he found the time and opportunity to familiarize himself with the best in Russian fiction—Feodor Dostoevsky, Alexander Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev, and Anton Chekhov.

A student of philology at the Moscow Institute of History, Philosophy, and Literature, Solzhenitsyn graduated in 1940, the year he married research chemist Natalia Reshetovskaya, and completed a post-graduate degree in math and physics from Rostov University in 1941. As an artillery captain during World War II, he fought on the Polish and East Prussian fronts and was twice decorated for valor. He relieved camp boredom through a lively correspondence with a friend in which he disguised disdain for Stalin's government with slangy references to the "busybody" and the "master."

Soviet secret police intercepted the letters in February 1945. Stripped of rank and medals, Solzhenitsyn suffered arrest, beatings, interrogation, and an arbitrary jail sentence without a hearing. For the next two years, he was imprisoned without trial in Moscow's legendary Lubyanka Prison for committing a political crime—criticizing Russian Premier Joseph Stalin. Solzhenitsyn worked as a construction laborer, installing parquet floors for the privileged KGB. The prison had a well-stocked library, where he came upon the expressionistic works of American poet John dos Passos and Yevgeny Zamyatin, author of the brilliant dystopian classic *We*. The stimulus encouraged him to compose in his head and to repeat passages of his finished work, which he was

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unable to commit to paper. A transfer took him to Marfino Prison from 1947-1950, a special research institution where he taught math and radio communications, and to Ekimastuz labor camp to work as a bricklayer and carpenter.

During his incarceration, Solzhenitsyn suffered from a cancerous tumor, but was successfully treated in Tashkent in 1953. He was then exiled to the Kok-terek labor camp in Kazakhstan, Siberia, for three years, where he taught math and physics and wrote plays, a long poem, and the beginnings of a novel that was privately printed at the Kremlin. The work shook the control of Premier Nikita Khrushchev, who was deposed in 1964. In 1956, free from exile and reunited with his wife, Solzhenitsyn taught math and astronomy at a high school in Ryazan. He later divorced and remarried. In 1963, after he published a collection of short stories, the government suppressed his works; they were banned completely in 1966. To save his writings from extinction, he chose an informal circulation in samizdat or illicit form and resorted to publishing houses outside the U.S.S.R.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Following attacks in the Red press after the underground publication of *August 1914* (1972), Solzhenitsyn was arrested for treason on February 12, 1974, and lodged in Lefortovo Prison. Before being exiled to Germany for defying officials and defending dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, Solzhenitsyn married math teacher Natalya Svetlova, the mother of his sons, Ignati, Yermolai, and Stephan. The family lived briefly in Zurich, Madrid, London, Oslo, Paris, and Stanford, California, and settled in Cavendish, Vermont, where he supported free speech issues and prized his solitude.

In 1970, following the Western reception of Solzhenitsyn's first four novels: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1962), *We Never Make Mistakes* (1963), *The First Circle* (1968), and *The Cancer Ward* (1968), he won a Nobel prize for literature and gained the free world's regard. The commendation lauded his ethical power and pursuit of Russian literary traditions. Communist leaders repressed his formal acceptance speech in Stockholm until four years later.

After writing *The Gulag Archipelago* (1976), Solzhenitsyn earned regard for revealing the sinister complex of Russian prisons and labor camps. Other of his works unmasking tyranny and unjust surveillance include *Candle in the Wind* (1974), *Lenin in Zurich* (1975), and *Warning to the West* (1976). He earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1978 and two years later published *The Mortal Danger: Misconceptions About Soviet Russia and the Threat to America* and *The Oak and the Calf*, both nonfiction.

In the late 1980s, Russian audiences demanded his early works. In 1994, President Mikhail Gorbachev allowed him to return home four years later. Solzhenitsyn traversed Russia by train and whistle-stopped along the way. The government awarded him the Russian state prize for literature, which he refused on grounds that his works were still largely unavailable in his homeland.

With the publication of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn publicly acknowledged his role as protest writer and humanist spokesman for free speech. The work found immediate acceptance in the West, where he received accolades and offers of a permanent homeland. In 1971, Tom Courtenay's film version of Ivan's life created an austere screen record of a barren landscape. The recipient of the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger, Free-

doms Foundation Award, and a religion prize from Templeton Foundation, Solzhenitsyn occupies an enviable position as Russia's grand old freedom fighter and irascible returning hero.

OTHER WORKS BY ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

August 1914 (1972)
The Cancer Ward (1968,)
Candle in the Wind (1974)
Detente (1975)
The First Circle (1968)
For the Good of the Cause (1964)
From Under the Rubble (1975)
The Gulag Archipelago (1976)
Invisible Allies (1995)
Lenin in Zurich (1975)
A Lenten Letter to Pimen (1972)
Letters to the Soviet Leaders (1974)
The Love Girl and the Innocent (1969)
Mortal Danger (1981)
Nobel Lecture (1972)
November 1916 (1999)
The Oak and the Calf (1975)
October 1916 (1984)
Rasskazy (1990)
Rebuilding Russia (1991)
The Red Wheel (1971)
Prisoners: A Tragedy (1983)
The Russian Question Toward the End of the Century (1995)
Six Etudes (1971)
Selected Works (1966)
Solzhenitsyn: A Pictorial Biography (1974)
Stories and Prose Poems (1971)
Peace and Violence (1974)
Prussian Nights (1974)
Victory Celebrations (1983)
A Warning to the West (1976)
We Never Make Mistakes (1963)
A World Split Apart (1979)

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the need for minimal comfort and nutrition
2. To describe the physical, mental, and emotional effects of imprisonment
3. To differentiate between criminals and political prisoners
4. To describe intimidation and coercion
5. To list causes of frustration, fear, and despair
6. To note the significance of character camaraderie
7. To read aloud examples of verbal conflict
8. To explain how suffering changes character
9. To characterize the value of sharing and cooperation
10. To evaluate the use of sensory impressions

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To outline the relationship between guard and prisoner
2. To narrate how Shukhov was arrested and transferred from Pechora
3. To characterize the stresses of roll call and headcounts
4. To evaluate changes in Shukhov and Caesar
5. To account for the smuggling of a piece of metal
6. To contrast the scenes in which prisoners eat and rest
7. To contrast the lives of Shukhov and his wife
8. To describe Der as foreman
9. To typify Alyosha's religiousness
10. To discuss the significance of the calendar
11. To isolate moments when Shukhov is content
12. To order the events that complete the day

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's style, present the following terms and applications to his fiction:

aphorism a self-evident truth stated in a brief phrase or sentence to serve as a moral precept, wisdom, or instruction. In describing the use of fear as a disciplinary measure, Solzhenitsyn remarks, "Beat a dog once and you only have to show him the whip," a meaningful image in this line depicts the level of fear that cows the prisoners while it compares them to whipped dogs. This brief glimpse of prison atmosphere crystallizes Solzhenitsyn's view of political inhumanity to detainees who have done nothing to deserve daily cruelty.

expressionism a step beyond realism that attempts to recreate actual data and settings through nightmarish montage, oversimplification of detail and gesture, or distortions of spatial relationships and segments of action. Solzhenitsyn, who emulated the expressionism of American poet John dos Passos, utilized the same spare, intensified landscape, bursts of dialogue, and elongated moments in the main character's life as though studying each moment in the illumination of one strobe flash. Thus, Shukhov's act of rising, eating, marching, and working are drawn out as though presented

on a cinematic screen in slow motion.

historic milieu the setting of events in a period of history. A thorough understanding of Solzhenitsyn's purpose requires some background knowledge of the two world wars, the formation of the Russian state, and iron-handed Communist rule. The publisher's note, a brief list of Russian notables, and the explanatory notes begin the process of alerting the reader to implications of the Stalin era on victims from Russia and its satellite states.

psychological novel a study of the interior landscape with emphasis on motivation, internal dialogue, and circumstance. Most of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* justifies Shukhov's habits and choices, for example, the need to be warm and well fed, the use of tools and fuel, and the inner workings of the prison underground. Consequently, much of the strife takes place in Shukhov's mind, where he relives military service, arrest, a term in a lumber camp, and transfer from Ust-Izhma to the steppes.

translation the presentation of a written work in a language other than the original. The difficulties of transferring thought from one time, culture, and language to another presents certain difficulties, which are often explained through footnotes or an afterword. Translators May Hayward and Ronald Hingley faced numerous problems in selecting synonyms with the exact connotative meaning to suit Solzhenitsyn's original thought, especially in phrasing prison slang, idiomatic expressions, and the foreign quality in words spoken by outsiders incarcerated among Russians, for example, Kilgas, the Latvian.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

Solzhenitsyn's choice of setting dominates the text of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Because Shukhov and his fellow inmates and guards have no choice of residence, the gray, onerous stone prison environment within the camp weighs down tone and atmosphere. Most elements—barbed wire fencing and frost-covered railings—stress the misery of life inside the frozen compound.

Shukhov introduces his few choices of activities—sweeping the supply rooms or collecting bowls from the tables in the mess hall and carrying them to dishwashers. For workers, the blazing stove in the warders' room establishes the difference between prison privations and employee comforts. To make the most of his time in HQ, Shukhov uses a rag to wipe down floorboards and tosses the cloth behind the stove to dry before splashing water from a pail on the path. He describes the dining area as a wood shack with earth floor and rusted metal sheets nailed over the cracks.

Rapidly, Shukhov covers the expanse from the bathhouse and recreation hall to the hospital block to report his illness. In the steamy interior of the mess hall, he comments on wooden trays by which gangs carry bowls of gruel to tables. In contrast to the uproar of diners, the hospital corridor is orderly, shiny white, and clean with a neat desk for the medic, Nikolay Vdovushkin. Details like the thermometers sticking through gauze in the jar and the absence of a ticking clock explain why Shukhov would like a day off in the sick bay to rest and recuperate.

The focus of Shukhov's labors, the "gray skeleton" of the power plant at the edge of the compound, consumes his attention as he observes the clean snow on the sledge track, supplies of roofing felt and bricks, and the burned-out motor on the hoist. In the generator room, the cement mixer at the

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gun" became standard equipment for police officers and prison guards after World War I. The expression *tommy gun* was eventually used to describe any kind of submachine gun or similar automatic weapon.)

7. The column came out into the steppe with the wind right in their faces, and there was a red sunrise. (p. 44)
(The novel takes place on the Soviet grassland or savannah, which extends from the Ukraine along the Black and Azov seas to the Altai Mountains in western Siberia. Typically hot and dry, the weather turns bitterly cold in winter because there are no windbreaks and the flat ground offers no resistance to the wind.)
8. They told you there was a new boss in the kolkhoz—but there was nothing new about that, they had a new one every year. (pp. 44-45)
(The Soviet state-operated kolkhoz or collective farms were organized to achieve a set of predetermined agricultural objectives mandated by a state bureaucracy.)
9. They got 50 rubles for a carpet painted on some old sheet—these carpets, they said, could be finished in an hour. (p. 46)
(Before the minting of true coins, the bar money of Kiev and Navgorod required cutting or chopping, the root of the Russian word *ruble*, a national monetary standard based on 100 *denga*. The ruble coin carried folk significance as a good luck piece buried in the foundation of a new house or sewn into a coat, both as an amulet and as added weight in the hem. When tossing for "heads or tails," the bearer of good fortune was the reverse, which displayed the Russian eagle crest, over the face, which displayed one of the vivid Russian folk designs randomly chosen.)
10. One, the "Troika," had a picture of a carriage drawn by three horses with beautiful harness, and a hussar inside. (p. 47)
(The familiar Russian three-horse sleigh teamed a trotter at center with two galloping horses to right and left.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Motivation

1. Why do the men hate lining up by fives?
(The tedious lining up by fives simplifies the staff's job of accounting for prisoners at the double gate on the way to work and at the construction job at the end of the day. For prisoners, the reduction of activity from walking or doing carpentry and bricklaying quickly cools down their bodies, leaving them more vulnerable to chill. The evening line-up is particularly unpleasant because the men are tired and hungry and looking forward to private time with letters, hot tea, tobacco, and letters from home. Another aspect of line-up is the opportunity for guards to check them carefully for contraband, such as stolen wood for burning in the barracks stove and the metal shard Shukhov hides in his mitten. Once the men begin moving up the road toward the prison camp, they feel free of scrutiny.)

Setting

2. Describe mealtime and snacks.
(Eating occupies careful descriptions. For Shukhov, the

steamy mess hall is another hurdle in a day of maneuvering and controlling behaviors. He observes the chores of carrying bowls of gruel on a wood tray for the work gang and comments on the quality of the food. Mush cooked from magara or groats is the staff of life for prisoners. Those who find tidbits of fish and potato count their good luck in adding meat and vegetables to the diet, even if the potato is frost-bitten. Shukhov is extra lucky in acquiring an extra bowl of gruel and a smoke.

After prisoners pick up packages from home, the savoring of each gift draws attention from the less fortunate. Shukhov worms his way into Caesar's good graces by saving his place in the mess line while Caesar collects a package from home. After Shukhov eats Caesar's bowl of food and buys a mug of tobacco, he receives an added pleasure, a cigarette from the Captain. After the evening head count, Caesar gives Shukhov two cookies, two lumps of sugar, and a hunk of sausage. Enjoying quiet time in his bunk, Shukhov shares his cookies with Alyoshka, thereby performing a Christian charity in keeping with the Baptist's beliefs.)

Character Development

3. How does Shukhov describe people he encounters daily in prison?
(Shukhov tends to regard people in terms of what they can do against him, as is the case with the Moldavian spy, or can do for him, for example, the Captain and the big Latvian, both of whom bear packages from home Shukhov covets. After making his way to the infirmary, he encounters the poet Stepan Grigoryevich and tries to rate a day off from work to recover from fever and achy muscles. The medic's refusal earns Shukhov's dislike, but no exaggerated animosity.
At roll call, Shukhov categorizes people according to their power to comfort or distress him. Pavlo, the assistant gang boss, distributes sugar and bread, which Shukhov hides in an inner pocket. Tyurin, the 40-year-old gang boss, marches the gang to the double gate under heavy guard, an ominous daily chore that Shukhov connects with heavy punishment. The least respectable, Panteleyev, who evades work by informing on others, receives the brunt of Shukhov's disdain.)

Historical Milieu

4. How does the novel express Russia's hardships under Joseph Stalin?
(The novel's action takes place in a Siberian prison camp and reflects on Shukhov's previous incarceration in a lumber camp in the extreme north of Russia where the Pechora River flows into the Berents Sea. The inner landscape, on the other hand, travels through memory and references to places significant to Russian history, especially settings from World War II and the distant homes of other prisoners. As Solzhenitsyn indicates, Russia under Stalin deprived citizens of civil rights. A vain, emotional leader, from his rise to power in 1926 to his death, Stalin tyrannized subordinates with unpredictable outbursts of anger and vengeance. Beginning in 1934, his power grab led to five years of purges, executions, and terrorism. At the worst of Stalin's persecutions, the prison population held steady at 12,000,000, many of whom died in wretched locales under daily torment. By 1939, Stalin held sway through secret police and a malignant dictatorship; people like Ivan Denisovich

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entrance is rickety and falling apart. For obvious reasons, Shukhov is intent on fixing the stove pipes and brick flue of the potbellied stove at the corner. In contrast to a source of heat, the sight of buckets of frozen water remind the reader the temperature is low enough to kill the unwary.

Back at his bunk in the evening, Solzhenitsyn reduces each man's personal space to a small, but important part of the camp. Shukhov uses the crosspiece of the wood frame as a place to hide a metal piece he intends to grind on a stone for a knife. On the bottom bunk, Caesar spreads his personal stash on paper, which Shukhov can observe through the slats above. One amenity, drying rooms for felt boots, offer a small amount of comfort. Content with his day, Shukhov pulls back his blanket and lies on the sheetless, sawdust-stuffed mattress and shaving-filled pillow. In contrast, "the can" offers spartan surroundings—stone walls, concrete floor, no windows, and a stove that melts ice from walls into puddles on the floor.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

Novels

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
Alexander Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo*
Ernest T. Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*
Franz Kafka, *The Trial*
George Orwell, *Animal Farm* and *1984*
Boris Pasternak, *Dr. Zhivago*
Ayn Rand, *We the Living*
Richard Wright, *Native Son*
Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*

Plays

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*

Nonfiction

Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*
Bryce Courtenay, *The Power of One*
Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times: Life in Soviet Russia in the 1930s*
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar*
Michael G. Kort, *Handbook of the Former Soviet Union*

Internet

"Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenitsyn-Autobiography"
<www.nobel.se/literature/laureates/1970/solzhenitsyn-autobio.html>
"Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn," <www.kirjasto.sci.fi/alesol.htm>
"The Gulag Collection," <www.jamestown.org/getman/gulag-collection.htm>

Videos/DVDs

Dr. Zhivago
The Handmaid's Tale
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
THX-1138

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* should include these aspects:

Themes

- captivity
- injustice
- suffering
- suspicion
- camaraderie
- survival
- self-esteem

- sharing
- endurance

Motifs

- coping with a manipulative inmate
- seeking escape from hard work
- comprehending the desperation of prisoners
- gaining self-esteem from work
- learning to work the prison system

MEANING STUDY

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from the novel. Explain each in context. Page numbers pinpoint each entry so you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. He'd had the bright idea of putting all the walking cases to work around the hospital, making fences and paths and carrying earth to the flowerbeds. (p. 23)
(*The medic, Stepan Grigoryevich, divides the sick into two broad categories, those well enough to walk and those confined to beds. To make the most of the energies of ambulatory patients, he has them clear snow and beautify the grounds.*)
2. And on a top bunk the Baptist Alyoshka, Shukhov's neighbor, neat and cleanly washed, was reading his notebook in which he had half the Gospels copied down. (p. 26)
(*The Gospels are a collection of early Christian history and a multi-sided account of the life and career of Jesus by four eyewitnesses—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In the mid-second century, St. Justin the Martyr referred to the parallel memoirs as "gospels," meaning "good news."*)
3. And he noticed at once that another fellow from his gang, Caesar, was smoking—not his pipe, but a cigarette—which meant there was a chance of cadging a smoke. (p. 32)
(*Shukhov has no respect for the scavenger Fetyukov, but needs a smoke so badly that he makes an exaggerated statement of physical need, "he'd rather have this butt than his freedom." To conceal the longing, he stands near Caesar and pretends to look nonchalantly into the distance.*)
4. When it was freezing, the frisking routine was not so tough in the morning—though it still was in the evening. (p. 35)
(*Shukhov goes to great lengths to explain that the friskers were looking for hidden food, civilian clothes, or contraband letters to "try and slip to someone on the outside to mail." The sentence prepares the reader for his smuggling a piece of metal from the construction site, an act that could have brought serious repercussions.*)
5. You've no right to strip people in the cold! You don't know Article Nine of the Criminal Code! (p. 38)
(*Shukhov is cynical about the Captain's naive complaints. The Captain has been incarcerated for only three months and doesn't realize that annoying Volkovoy during a search will net the Captain ten days in solitary confinement.*)
6. They ringed the column going to the power station, shouldered their tommy guns and pointed them straight at your face. (p. 40)
(*Named for inventor John Taliaferro Thompson, the .45-caliber submachine gun bearing the slang name "tommy*

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fell prey to government paranoia and a corrupt administration empowered to arrest anyone on suspicion of disloyalty or threat to the status quo.

At the end of World War II, world powers anticipated Stalin would loosen his hold on the power structure. However, he became increasingly despotic as state regulations grew more rigid and greater numbers of citizens vanished into the complex of gulags, the isolated work camps authorities reserved for political prisoners. Stalin remained grimly bellicose toward challenge until his death from brain hemorrhage on March 5, 1953. Although authoritarian control and blatant spying continued under Premier Nikita Khrushchev, the capricious disenfranchisement and imprisonment of suspects never reached the proportions of the notorious Stalin years.)

Theme

5. What does the author reveal about survival?

(The characters of the novel must take responsibility for warding off the elements that killed prisoners on the steppes. Shukhov, who survived scurvy and suffered diarrhea and internal hemorrhaging in 1943, learned self-preservation in the military and at the POW cage. He is savvy enough to accept a charge of conspiring with the enemy and to sign a confession to avoid execution.

At the camp, Shukhov is capable of avoiding clashes with officials like Volkovoy. To maintain health, Shukhov treasures mittens, face cloths, a rope belt, and dry felt boots as well as extra nourishment and hot tea to bolster his energy. To spread his food over the day, he makes a pocket in which he can hide half of the daily allotment of bread and conceals the other half in his mattress. Instead of focusing on a missing home and family, he concentrates on each day as it comes. Therefore, getting a puff on a cigarette, a shared cookie, or hot water for tea take on added significance as he weathers sub-freezing temperatures and long work days without adequate clothing.)

Interpretation

6. What does the novel say about cruelty?

(At the heart of Solzhenitsyn's novel is the unfairness of a lengthy prison sentence at hard labor for a crime Shukhov didn't commit. In a government where citizen's rights to representation by an attorney and a fair trial are nonexistent, prisoners have little choice but to plead guilty and accept lengthy terms as well as capricious punishments of solitary confinement. Adding to their misery is the struggle to stay warm and get enough rest to keep them alive and healthy. A psychological overlay of jealousy develops in prisoners as they witness the staff in heated offices playing checkers and enjoying a less miserable environment. The added torments of frequent prisoner head counts while the men stand on frozen ground without their boots, a diet comprised of gruel and bread, and the strip search that costs them their undershirts increase the likelihood the weak will not survive prison.)

Conflict

7. What is the pervasive conflict in prison fiction?

(In fiction where characters struggle to maintain warmth, rest, food, and normal comforts, conflict arises from uneven distribution of their needs. The allotment of

bread, sugar, and trays of gruel cause constant inmate-to-inmate surveillance to assure a fair share. The delivery of packages with little extras—tobacco, cigarettes, sausage, cookies, canned milk, smoked fish, fatback, crackers, lump sugar, and butter—creates tension among friends and dislike of scavengers, who deliberately stare into the eyes of recipients. A suspicion about squealers who earn free time by informing on their peers raises enmity among inmates who should be seeking harmony rather than aggravating anger and frustration. Completing the picture of conflict is an atmosphere of watchfulness from guards on the watchtowers and at the gates and barracks, which suggests a daily confrontation with the possibility of sudden death.)

Atmosphere

8. How does the tension ease during free time?

(Shukhov enjoys interaction with bunkmates, even the Baptist, whose religious fanaticism has little effect on a non-believer. The quiet time for turning back the blanket and resting on mattress and pillow allows Shukhov time to converse and to set in perspective thoughts about home and the outside world. Free time also produces brotherhood in the sharing of treats and tobacco. The frequent counts destroy free time and force the men back into the cold attest to the importance of time alone for study, reading letters, or discussing the day's events.

For Shukhov, free time allows him to reflect on happiness. He remarks on his luck that he hasn't earned solitary confinement. He savors the extra bowl of mush at noon, the smuggling of a metal shard, and enjoyment of tobacco. More important to his survival, he rejoices at the departure of aches and fever and at the satisfaction of a wall well-made by his gang. He concludes, "Nothing had spoiled the day and it had been almost happy.")

Structure

9. Why does Solzhenitsyn limit the action to a single day?

(Solzhenitsyn's tour de force novel summarizes in a short narrative the miseries of the era ruled by Stalin. Through flashbacks, Shukhov summarizes the hideous conditions of escaping a prisoner-of-war camp only to face false charges of treason. The author stresses the day-to-day concentration on survival causes Shukhov to devise ways to cadge little extras.

Solzhenitsyn leads up to the reflection over a single day, a taking of stock that focuses Shukhov's thoughts and energies on a manageable amount of time. By rewarding himself for the assets of a day well spent, he is able to grasp enough contentment to satisfy emotional and physical need. The author concludes Shukhov faces 3,653 more days with similar patterns of struggle to stay warm, fed, healthy, and rested. The expanse of time overwhelms the reader with the poignance of the waste of a man's life.)

Purpose

10. Why has Solzhenitsyn earned regard as a humanist?

(As displayed in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Solzhenitsyn values human life for its uniqueness. His careful prose translated personal experience in work camps for crimes he didn't commit into terms people in the free world can value and identify with. By informing the outside world of the miseries of incarceration under a suspicious, repressive regime, he gained a reputation for

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humanism. When he won the Nobel Prize, people worldwide applauded his commitment to publishing the truth about Communism and welcomed later works, which ranged from focus on the U. S. S. R. to other world situations that limited and compromised human life.)

HOW LANGUAGE WORKS

Solzhenitsyn reveals much about prisoners' character and behavior through description of a typical camp day:

1. To spare gangs from the bitter cold, a "Hero of the Soviet Union" examines the thermometer to a cry of "Don't breathe on it or it'll go up." The former hero's paranoia is evident in his contention "They'd never put in one that works here."
2. The staff's denigration and harassment of prison laborers is obvious in the snarl, "Why are you using all that water, stupid? That's no way to wash a floor."
3. The depersonalization of prisoners is implicit in the order, "Snap out of it, 104! Out-si-de!" and "Line up by fives! One! Two-o!"
4. Shukhov's connivance in keeping a trowel appears in his remark, "You give yours to Gopchik so he can take 'em over and I'll finish off the job with mine. They don't know I've got it so they won't have to check it in."
5. In a pensive moment, Shukhov muses, "The old people at home used to say God breaks the old moon up into stars."
6. Memories of better times emerge from the Captain, who recalls, "I spent a whole month almost on a British cruiser, had a cabin to myself there. I was on convoys as a liaison officer."
7. The camaraderie of prisoners encourages all as they shout after the Captain on his way to solitary confinement, "Keep your chin up! Don't let 'em get you down!"

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

1. Create a bulletin board depicting the various parts of the prison bureaucracy. Relate their nearness to Shukhov and Gang 104.
2. Explain with a storyboard the skill of bricklaying. Mention the need for a hod, level, wire brush, and plumb line. Discuss the use of the trowel in squaring and smoothing mortar. Include comments about extreme cold and the mixing and application of mortar.
3. Draw a wrap-around book jacket or poster emphasizing the predictable movements of prisoners from barracks to bathhouse or mess hall and to work at the power plant. Show the placement of prison numbers on the jacket and knee.

Cinema

View various films featuring imprisonment, e. g. *The Shawshank Redemption*. Discuss why filmmakers focus on prison friendships, peculiar behaviors, or oddities of facial expression, dress, or expression.

Drama

1. Write several conversations that would clarify relationships, for example, the parting words of Shukhov to his wife, the arresting officer's accusation of treason, Alyosha's religious beliefs, Shukhov's account of his confession, or the Captain's description of his prison sentence. Include speakers on several levels: a lieutenant, guard, warder, doctor, orderly, bunkmate, family member, and trusty.

2. Draw settings for a stage version of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Show the placement of actors, music, costumes, props, sound effects, and lighting that will illuminate both camaraderie and rampant fear and paranoia.
3. Suggest ways this story could be written as a play. Add characters and flashbacks to supply more information about Shukhov's wife, the beginning of the war, and his arrest and incarceration for conspiring with the enemy.
4. Role-play the part of a female character in a prison requires women to work in groups at road building, orchard upkeep, vegetable harvest, prison repairs, nursing in an infirmary, cooking, or laundry. Relate experiences with roll call, medics, distribution of tools, watchtowers, parcel delivery, and strip searches.

History and Social Studies

1. Using desktop publishing or other media, design a technical drawing of a steppe for an illustrated topography text, a layout for a penal camp, a uniform for a guard or hussar, a cultural description of a Gypsy or Tartar, a history of Lenin or Ivan the Terrible, an extended definition of repression or civil rights, or a map of Russia showing significant place names and the Northwestern front.
2. Compose a short segment in which you report on terms linked to World War II. Express the importance of POWs, Buchenwald, spies, proletarian, kulak, the Northwestern Front, and penal camps.
3. Explain the meaning of -vich when added to a name like Grigoryevich. Give examples of famous people with patronymic and matronymic surnames with such additives as fitz-, mac-, -dottir, -sen, and -son.
4. Describe the cold steppe as the ultimate hindrance to flight. Discuss additional needs for watchtowers, guards, automatic weapons, searches, lineups, roll call, trusties, painted numbers, and other methods of keeping tabs on prisoners.
5. Draw a Venn diagram representing the parallel lifestyles and activities of Shukhov and his wife. Note the aspects they share, for example, the repression of the Russian government on each and the absence of personal freedom. List their differences, particularly money, security, comforts, choices, hope, rations, mail, work, and family activity.
6. Discuss with a group the legality of prison coercion. Why does Shukhov risk punishment by hiding his trowel? Why did Shukhov sign a false confession? What act violates Article Nine of the Criminal Code? What punishment awaits people who march out of line?

Language Arts

1. Describe aloud the tedium and frustration that accompany lining up in fives, waiting for a headcount and body search, and expressing anger at those who delay the walk back to the barracks.
2. Contrast minor characters in terms of action, control, and compassion. Include warders, prisoners, mess hall workers, the medic, trusties, officers, foremen, and guards. Which characters are stereotypes? Which seem like characterizations of real people? Which have the most influence on the action?
3. Divide the class into small groups to list identifiable parts of the story and to place them on a Freytag diagram.

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Include exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion. Why is the smuggled iron significant to the story's suspense? Does the event occur before or after the climax?

4. Analyze character interaction by simplifying the action and meaning of a single scene. For example, give a detailed sketch of Shukhov's attempt to enter the infirmary, the sharing of a cookie, disagreements about the roofing felt covering the window, the substitution of grass for millet, or Clubfoot's defiance of men pushing into the mess hall.
5. Read aloud other descriptions of imprisonment. Discuss minor elements that trigger extensive episodes or depressions. Why is human contact important to each prisoner?
6. Compose a first person account of a prisoner's daily life stacking bowls in the mess hall, begging for a smoke, retrieving mail, tying on a face-cloth, hiding food in a hole in the mattress, laying brick, and placing bread in an inner pocket to keep it from freezing.
7. Write a theme in which you explain the role of a minor incident in the action. Choose from these: Shukhov admires a spoon made from wire, Caesar receives a package from home, Der accuses Shukhov of applying mortar too thinly, Buynovsky checks the thermometer, and Vdovushkin writes poetry.
8. Compose an informal essay on character lists made up exclusively of adult males. Discuss how the prison would be humanized by sight or conversation with women, children, and the elderly, particularly family members. Explain why dialogue among the prisoners lacks variety and texture because of the sameness of the characters' experiences.
9. Compile and discuss a list of images from the story that appeal to the five senses, for instance "In front the column swayed, men began to swing their shoulders, and the escort guards, twenty paces away at either side of the column and with ten paces between them, started off, their tommy guns at the ready."
10. Survey the critical response to *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* both at the time it was published and now. Express how current attitudes toward prisoner's rights, Communism, *detente*, and *glasnost* influence critical appraisals. Discuss the novel's use as a screenplay.
11. With a group, create a web site explaining important words and phrases from the novel such as Latvian, Ivan the Terrible, and hussar. Alphabetize the terms under the headings of place names, disease, building materials, food, and prison lingo.

Religion and the Humanities

1. Make an oral report on the theme of brotherhood. Summarize events and conversations demonstrating compassion for fellow inmates. Explain why Shukhov seems more attuned to the needs and concerns of prisoners than to those of his own family.
2. Explain in a theme how the author characterizes a natural human instinct to identify evidence of humanity in other people. For example, mention the old guard to whom Shukhov holds out his mittens. Discuss how a knowledge of boredom and job hatred helps Shukhov

predict the man's thoroughness in searching for contraband.

3. Characterize Caesar's role as both giver and receiver. Why do fellow prisoners champion a man who appears to have superior knowledge, experience, and coping strategies? Why does Caesar ignore Shukhov at the office?
4. Summarize information from the Gospels and New Testament concerning persecution and imprisonment.

Science

1. Make a schematic drawing of a watchtower, tommy gun, cement mixer, flue, rug-painting business, or a hoist. Label all parts.
2. Give a brief explanation of first aid for frostbite or a clinical description of tuberculosis or scurvy.
3. Make a botanical guide or nutritional entry on groats or magara. Explain what fish adds to a meal of mush.

Psychology and Health

1. Explain to a small group why prisoners resent having to strip out of undershirts or worry about cracking their boots by sitting too close to a hot stove. Describe the meaning of subzero cold to workers on the Russian steppe.
2. Describe in a short speech the effects of loneliness, cold, isolation, pain, threat of punishment, hunger, frustration, boredom, and intimidation on characters in the story. How do the varied backgrounds of prisoners alter points of view? What type of prisoner is most unhappy? What short-term goals keep Shukhov focused on an achievable end?
3. Compose an extended definition of insecurity in which you compare Shukhov to the focal character in Richard Wright's "Between the World and Me," Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We*, Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Dalton Trumbo's *Johnny Got His Gun*, Jean Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear*, Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, Marsha Norman's *G'Night Mother*, Jack London's "To Build a Fire," Yoko Kawashima Watkins's *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*, or Isabel Allende's *House of the Spirits*.

Speech

1. Compose a short speech in which you describe the function of each member of the work crew. Note which participants know how to mix and apply mortar to keep it from freezing, secure a supply of raw materials, handle tools, steady a scaffold, lay brick in a straight line, and keep an assembly line going.
2. Lead a debate about the damage done by Joseph Stalin to political prisoners. Compare Shukhov's sufferings to the extensive prison history of Solzhenitsyn. How does the novel reflect the author's firsthand experience? Russia's loss? Stalin's insidious hold over working-class people?

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Make a thorough list of items essential to a movie version of the story. Isolate items that determine a prisoner's comfort, for example, a tightly packed mug of tobacco or a foot cloth.
2. Compose a complete character list for the story. Beside

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each name, describe pertinent facts. Conclude with an assessment of each character's personality and importance to the book.

3. Describe from a first person point of view significant scenes of the plot. Give your response to what has happened and to what results from each episode.
4. Read aloud episodes of other stories about privation and injustice. Make a list of common themes, for example isolation, alienation, secrecy, manipulation, camaraderie, and cooperation.

TEACHER'S NOTES

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VOCABULARY TEST

Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate word from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank at left.

alimony	convoy	hod	plumb	squeamish
amnesty	cubicle	incense	reveille	peat
anointing	escort	liaison	scavenger	Tartar
caldron	fanning	objectivity	souvenir	transit
cocky	Gospels	perimeter	quota	windowpanes

1. By the way, in thirty-eight I met my old sergeant in the Kotlas _____ camp.
2. What do you mean, rice? That's on a different _____ and there's just no comparison.
3. And smoke from Caesar's pipe was curling through the sunbeams like _____ in a church.
4. The main thing for Shukhov was not to lag behind, and for this he'd have chased his own brother up and down that ladder with a _____.
5. He took a hatchet and a wire brush for the ice, a bricklayer's gavel, a yardstick, and a _____ line.
6. All the youngsters were getting out as best they could—to factories in the towns or to the _____ fields.
7. If you got an _____ chief with any brains he'd start marching you back to the camp right away because he knew the prisoners couldn't make a run for it now and the fellows from the watchtowers would catch up with them.
8. They came back through the gates like soldiers from the wars with a lot of noise and _____ as hell.
9. And on a top bunk the Baptist Alyoshka, Shukhov's neighbor, neat and cleanly washed, was reading his notebook in which he had half the _____ copied down.
10. Near the _____ a deputy work-controller was going frantic.
11. And each had its own latrine and the guy in charge of the barracks had his own _____.
12. And he didn't see the prisoners leaving their shelters either and _____ out over the compound, some to finish digging holes started in the morning and others to put up the rafters on the roofs of the workshops.
13. Shukhov had been told that this old man'd been in camps and prisons more years than you could count and had never come under any _____.
14. That priest of ours is paying _____ to three women in three towns, and he's living with a fourth.
15. The great thing was that he'd beaten that _____ Fetyukov to it, and here he was now smoking away till it burned his lips.
16. They were making tar in a _____ on one of the streets there, and a gang of young thugs was sitting around it.
17. Then after the war some British admiral who should've had more sense sent me a little _____ with an inscription that said: "In gratitude."
18. He wasn't hurt because Caesar was _____ about letting him smoke it in the holder (some people have clean mouths, other have foul mouths), and it didn't hurt his hardened fingers when the butt burned right down to them.
19. One must say in all _____ that Eisenstein is a genius.
20. And _____, they said, was at five in the morning.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements.

1. It must be _____ degrees below zero for work to be cancelled.
2. Shukhov has a speech impediment because of losing teeth to _____.
3. The _____ may be a goner if he doesn't learn to adapt to prison life.
4. Caesar was arrested before he could finish his _____.
5. Shukhov was accused of _____ after he escaped from a German POW camp.
6. The scaffolding is dangerous after the men burn the _____ for fuel.
7. Shukhov never eats _____ if they are floating in the gruel.
8. _____ wipes blood from his mouth.
9. _____ asks Shukhov to make a spoon from wire.
10. The Pechora camp in Ust-Izhma produced _____.
11. The medic, who writes _____, refuses to admit Shukhov to the infirmary.
12. _____ insists that Shukhov pray for the right things.
13. By holding out two _____ in one hand, Shukhov smuggles in a metal fragment from the power plant.
14. _____ demands that brickwork be level.
15. The men curse the _____ for falling asleep.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You may use some answers more than once.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ___ 1. paints troikas on sheets | A. Tyurin |
| ___ 2. threatens to kill Der | B. Shukhov |
| ___ 3. was a liaison officer on a British cruiser | C. Pavlo |
| ___ 4. presses tobacco in a mug | D. Senka |
| ___ 5. gives out bread and sugar rations | E. Shukhov's wife |
| ___ 6. scares the guards and even the commandant | F. the Latvian |
| ___ 7. was injured in the jaw | G. Buynovsky |
| ___ 8. survived Buchenwald | H. Caesar |
| ___ 9. fails to notice Shukhov waiting for tobacco | I. Lt. Volkovoy |
| ___ 10. slides into the front of the mess hall line | J. Clubfoot |

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Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- 1. Russians who can't afford Persian rugs buy painted imitations.
- 2. The kolkhoz is run mainly with female labor.
- 3. Shukhov got less to eat when he was a logger.
- 4. Drinking tea from the barracks container is dangerous.
- 5. Penteleyev is so sick that he is assigned to mop the ward room.
- 6. The crew must carry supplies up the ladder because the hoist is burned out.
- 7. Stepan Grigoryevich leads the escort guard through the second gate.
- 8. Eino quickly stitches the tobacco into a pocket inside his pants.
- 9. Snubnose and other warders intimidate the inmates by calling for frequent checks.
- 10. Shukhov concludes that the day has been unusually satisfying.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Explain why Shukhov was arrested.
- 2. Compare time spent at work with free time.
- 3. Discuss how Caesar gets out of work.
- 4. Explain the purpose of lining up by fives.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match the following actions with settings from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Gopchik helps Shukhov get food for the crew. | A. power plant |
| ___ 2. Fifteen days means death. | B. mess hall |
| ___ 3. Walking cases are put on clean-up detail. | C. Ust-Izhma |
| ___ 4. Shukhov guards his boots while they dry. | D. barracks |
| ___ 5. Inmates search for scraps of wood. | E. Northwestern Front |
| ___ 6. Shukhov learns that Caesar has a parcel waiting. | F. Polomnya |
| ___ 7. Word of the war reaches the peasants. | G. infirmary |
| ___ 8. Shukhov is wounded in the jaw, but leaves the hospital. | H. the can |
| ___ 9. Kuzyomin warns of the law of the jungle. | I. kitchen |
| ___ 10. The two-room building has no floor. | J. list on the plywood board |

Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

Supply a detail in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. Who acts like brothers? |
| _____ | 2. Where did Buynovsky serve with the British? |
| _____ | 3. Who threatens Tyurin because of the roofing felt on the window? |
| _____ | 4. Who fears that the wrong people get their throats slit? |
| _____ | 5. Who survived Buchenwald? |
| _____ | 6. What machine burns out? |
| _____ | 7. Who encourages Shukhov to pray? |
| _____ | 8. Where have there been few blizzards? |
| _____ | 9. Who demands prisoner rights under Article 58? |
| _____ | 10. Which apostle does Alyoshka quote? |
| _____ | 11. Who delivers a lighter bread ration? |
| _____ | 12. What tool could earn Shukhov ten days? |
| _____ | 13. How does Tyurin flee arrest? |
| _____ | 14. What tool does Shukhov conceal under a rock? |
| _____ | 15. How much does Shukhov pay for two mugs of tobacco? |

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Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase to complete each set of parentheses in the following statements.

1. (In a long line, In rows of five, Ten to a gang, Barrack by barrack) the prisoners pass through the gates to the (tool factory, POW cage, bathhouse, power plant).
2. After capture by the (Communists, Germans, escort guards, squealers) on the Northwestern Front, Shukhov escapes and is arrested for (treason, concealing a penknife, destroying plywood, dumping concrete).
3. The men are loyal to their (warder, liaison officer, boss, commandant) because he negotiates their (sugar ration, release, work rate, brick quota).
4. While the men listen to (Caesar, Pavlo, the Moldavian, the Captain)'s story, Shukhov pities (Fetyukov, Senka, Eino, Kilgas) for his burst ear drums.
5. (The Moldavian, Shukhov, Alyoshka, Clubfoot) delays formation because he (hides concrete, prays with the Old Believers, pushes men from the hatch, falls asleep).

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Contrast the private behavior of Alyoshka, Caesar, Fetyukov, Vdovushkin, and Shukhov.
2. Discuss the importance of generosity and brotherhood to the story.
3. Describe the Captain's adaptation to a penal camp.
4. Account for difficulties faced by the bricklayers.

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VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. transit | 11. cubicle |
| 2. quota | 12. fanning |
| 3. incense | 13. amnesty |
| 4. hod | 14. alimony |
| 5. plumb | 15. scavenger |
| 6. peat | 16. caldron |
| 7. escort | 17. souvenir |
| 8. cocky | 18. squeamish |
| 9. Gospels | 19. objectivity |
| 10. perimeter | 20. reveille |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Sentence Completion (30 points)

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. forty | 6. handrails | 11. poetry |
| 2. scurvy | 7. eyes | 12. Alyoshka |
| 3. Captain | 8. Fetyukov | 13. mittens |
| 4. film | 9. wire | 14. Kilgas |
| 5. treason | 10. logs | 15. Moldavian |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. I |
| 2. A | 7. B |
| 3. G | 8. D |
| 4. F | 9. H |
| 5. C | 10. B |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. F |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. J |
| 2. H | 7. F |
| 3. G | 8. E |
| 4. D | 9. C |
| 5. A | 10. I |

Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Estonians | 6. hoist | 11. Pavlo |
| 2. cruiser | 7. Alyoshka | 12. penknife |
| 3. Der | 8. steppe | 13. train |
| 4. Fetyukov | 9. the Captain | 14. trowel |
| 5. Senka | 10. Paul | 15. two rubles |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. In rows of five, power plant
2. Germans, treason
3. boss, work rate
4. the Captain, Senka
5. The Moldavian, falls asleep

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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