

Day In The Life of Ivan Denisovich

Reading 1 Notes/Questions

5:00 am Reveilles – Banging hammer

Warder

Usually up early – Not feeling well –does not get out of bed

First foreman – Kuyzomin and his survival tips in 1943 (what are they?)

How long has he been in jail?

Define Gulag

What is his gang #?

What is the worst work assignment possible?

Ivan and a half. (why that name?)

Alyoshka and Buynovsky – briefly describe them

20 below outside

Trying to take a sick day.

What is a Tartar?

What is Shukhov's prison number?

prisoners – “zeks”

What is his punishment for “sleeping late?”

Why can't you get your shoes wet?

How long has it been since Shukhov has seen his wife?

Has a lisp because of Scurvy? Define Scurvy

Remove your cap before eating

What type of food is served in the Gulag?

Shukhov is in a “special camp” – usually for those committing political crimes

Keep a list of “odd camp rules”

Buying some tobacco – Latvian

Vdovushkin – job,...real job? Who is he?

Only two people are let off work duty – list is full

Grigoryevich – who is he?

What is the best cure for illness according to Grigoryevich?

Day In The Life of Ivan Denisovich

Reading 2 Notes/Questions

Who is Pavlo?

How much bread does each prisoner get per day?

What does Alyoshka have that is not allowed in camp?

What is it that bothers the gang about Panteleyev?

What does Shukhov have to fix to avoid being punished?

What is the gang forced to do at the security checkpoint?

Who is the new camp disciplinary officer?

Nobody is looking to smuggle things *out* of the camp.

Why is Buynovsky punished? What can't you have on?

No talking, not touching (during exercises)

You can write home two times per year

Has not been home since 1941, and been in prison since 1943, it is 1951

Describe in detail what a "kolkhoz" is.

Before the war Shukhov lived a private, quiet life in a little village.

What is the new "big business" that many soldiers back home are getting involved in?

Is Shukhov hopeful for his future life after the camp? Why or why not? How many years does he have left?

Describe their worksite for the day.

Day In The Life of Ivan Denisovich

Reading 3 Notes/Questions

What was the punishment given to all of the Baptists?
Who is the foreman for gang 104? Why is a foreman important?
What does Fetyukov gather at the work site?
What gang is already at the work site blocking the heating stoves?
Why is Senka in prison? Where was he before the gulag?

Support the idea that Stalin and his government are Xenophobic.

Describe Buchenwald in detail.

The prisoners, Kilgas in particular, is wishing for a blizzard. Why?

**Shukhov and Kilgas are the best workers in the gang.
Shukhov was a bricklayer and Kilgas was a carpenter**

Please describe the group “The Old Believers”

Kilgas gets two packages a month. It keeps him healthy. He can make jokes.

What is the only bad thing, according to Shukhov, about Kilgas? Why?
What, if fixed, would make their work a lot easier? What is wrong with it?

**Prisoners are kept in gangs to keep each other competing, in check, and working.
Fetyukov was once a businessman, tried to impose his power, got beat down.**

“Beat a dog once and you only have to show him the whip.”

Why was Gopchik arrested? Please describe the “Bendera Partisans”

Bricklaying was a job you could take pride in.

**Shukhov’s sentence is almost up, Kilgas got 25 years, used to be 10
They would randomly add 5 years, they twisted the law any way they wanted.**

“So you just went on living like this, with your eyes on the ground, and you had no time to think about how you got in and when you’d get out.”

Describe the situation that led to Shukhov being put in prison.
Please explain the “commandments rule.”
What happens to squealers?

Day In The Life of Ivan Denisovich

Reading 4 Notes/Questions

11 gangs on site (2 at a time in the mess hall)
One degree below zero – “Good weather for bricklaying.”

What is a “goner?”

Had to eat inside the mess hall.

“It was every man for himself”

The best kind of mush is made of oats.

What is “magara?”

How does Shukhov trick the cook? What does he get?

Shukhov gets the bowls and Pavlo gets to hand them out?
Caesar gets a delivery.

Describe how the captain has changed.

Fetyukov is not happy with the extra food decisions.
Shkuropatenko – “like a bent beanpole”

Define “Oprichniki”

“Too much art is no art at all. Like candy instead of bread.”

“A genius doesn’t adapt his treatment to the taste of tyrants.”

“It’s better to be thrifty than wealthy.”

“They ate four days for every five they worked.”

“There is a God in heaven after all. He’s long suffering, but when he hits you, it hurts.”

**Shukhov needs a cigarette, where does he get it? What does he use to roll it?
Who does he need to save some for?**