

David Rudd

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World History II (10th grade)

*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Please make sure your copy has the introduction written by Marvin L. Kalb.

**ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH**  
**SUMMER READING GUIDE FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HISTORY (RUDD)**

**Date due and Assessment:**

Within the first week of the academic year, this assignment will be checked as a homework grade. Then, following discussion in class, students will take a written test that focuses specifically on the facts obtained from the reading assignment questions.

**Objective:**

The purpose of using this book for summer reading is to share the experiences of a typical prisoner in a Russian work camp during the reign of dictator Joseph Stalin. This book is a Russian “social protest” novel that tells the story of little people trapped in a merciless political machine. It is important for students to understand the hardships Stalin imposed on the Russian people in his attempt to modernize and industrialize his country. Please note that in some prisoner conversations there is some swearing.

**As you read through the book, write out answers to the following questions:**

From the Introduction:

1. Ivan Denisovich Shukov became a symbol of what?
2. What had Shukov been accused of (imprisoned for)?
3. What was his sentence?
4. Why did this book have an impact on the Russian people?
5. Who read the book and approved its publication?
6. How do some “old bolsheviks” (communists) criticize *One Day*....?

From the book:

1. Explain the circumstances behind the usual process of beginning the day in camp
2. Why was Shukov punished that day?
3. What is “The Tarter?”
4. Where was he taken and what did he have to do?
5. Describe breakfast. What was in the stew?
6. Describe the infirmary
7. How cold was the temperature?
8. What was the “canteen?”
9. Explain the significance of the “bowls.” Why did prisoners use needle and thread?
10. Why was it important to have your number painted?

11. Explain the process of searching the prisoners leaving and arriving at the camp
12. What was a “zek?”
13. What weapons did the guards typically have?
14. What is the coldest part of the night?
15. Why were snowstorms welcome by the prisoners?
16. Where did Shukov work that day, doing what, and with what tools?
17. What was lunch?
18. Why did Shukov take pride in his work?
19. Why were Shukov and Senka late getting back with the other workers?
20. What type things would prisoners try to take back into camp?
21. Who was missing at the count? What was said about him?
22. What did Shukov have in his pant pocket? What did he do with it to conceal it?
23. What would guards do to parcels that were for the prisoners?
24. What was the evening meal?
25. Why was a simple smoke so precious to the prisoners?
26. What had Tsezar received in his package that day? But what did the prisoners have to do with some of it?
27. What did Shukov do with the hacksaw blade that night? What was he going to do with it?
28. Explain the “cells” and “10 days”
29. Why were the Barrack commanders so bad?
30. When was the evening count and how long would it last? Then, when is the morning count?
31. Who was Shukov’s bunk mate? What did he always want to talk about?
32. Why did Shukov sleep “content” that night?