

Name _____



Tolstoy's Purpose

Read the following guiding question: **Why might Tolstoy have written a story centered on Ivan's decline and death rather than on his career or early life?**

Write 3-4 sentences explaining what you think Tolstoy's main purpose was. Use evidence from the text.

Reflection Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What critique of society does Tolstoy make through Ivan's obsession with status and appearances?

2. How does Tolstoy's portrayal of death differ from how society usually talks about it?

3. Why might Tolstoy have chosen a legal official, a man respected and ordinary, as the central figure?
