

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ivan's Final Light Answer Key

**Teacher Guide:** You may share the framework below to your students to assist them in their essay:

### Planning Your Essay

- 1. Choose a Side**
  - Yes, Ivan achieves redemption.
  - No, Ivan does not truly achieve redemption.
- 2. Thesis Statement**

Write one clear sentence stating your argument
- 3. Evidence Bank**

State at least three pieces of textual evidence with explanations.

### Writing the Essay

Write 3-4 paragraphs using your thesis and evidence. Be sure to:

- Introduce the argument clearly.
- Use at least three pieces of evidence.
- Explain how the evidence proves your claim.
- End with a concluding reflection.

### Sample Thesis (Yes side):

*Ivan achieves redemption because he finally sees the emptiness of his life and embraces compassion and truth in his final moments.*

### Sample Evidence (Yes side):

- "Instead of death there was light." → Suggests spiritual awakening.
- Ivan stops fearing for himself and thinks of his family → Shows newfound selflessness.
- Peace replaces terror → Indicates transformation and release.

### Sample Essay Excerpt (Yes side)

*Ivan Ilyich achieves redemption in his final moments because he learns the truth about life and death. After a lifetime of pursuing status, he realizes that compassion is more important than appearances. The image of light replacing death shows that Ivan has spiritually awakened. Though it is late, Tolstoy presents this moment as a triumph of truth over denial.*

### Sample Reflection

*I agree with Tolstoy's message that it is never too late to change. Facing mortality can bring clarity, and even a late awakening can bring peace.*