

Name _____

Ilyich Uncovered

Directions: Read the following excerpt carefully. As you read, annotate by circling key words, underlining phrases, and writing margin notes about what stands out.

“And suddenly it became clear to him that what had been oppressing him and would not leave him was all due to the fact that he had not lived as he ought. He tried to defend this life of his, and suddenly he felt the weakness of what he was defending. There was nothing to defend. But if that was so, and he had not lived as he ought, then it could all be redone. He tried to make amendments in his thoughts of the past life, but it was too late.”

As you annotate, consider the following:

- **Key Words** - What words or phrases capture Ivan's inner struggle most strongly?
- **Contrasts** - Where does Tolstoy set up a tension between Ivan's past and present?
- **Tone** - How does the tone of the passage reflect Ivan's state of mind?
- **Philosophy** - What truth is Ivan realizing in this moment?



Reflection: How would you respond if you had Ivan's realization near the end of life? What changes, if any, would you want to make in your own life now?
