

Name _____

Hunting For Ilyich's Symbols

Directions: Find and explain symbols in short excerpts from the text.



Excerpt 1 - The Black Sack

“At the bottom of the sack was light. It was there that he ought to go. And there, in the bottom, something was shining. ‘So that’s what it is!’ he suddenly exclaimed. ‘What joy!’ For him all this happened in an instant, and the meaning of it did not change.”

Excerpt 2 - Illness

“What tormented Ivan Ilyich most was that no one pitied him as he wanted to be pitied. There was some cruelty in his illness, a cruelty in the very fact that he, Ivan Ilyich, with his dignity, should be dying in such a way. This loneliness amid so many people was more terrible than the pain.”

1. What does the **black sack** symbolize in Ivan's experience?

2. Why does the **light at the bottom** of the sack matter?

3. How does Ivan's **illness** function as more than just a physical ailment?

4. Which emotions (fear, relief, loneliness, hope) are connected to these symbols? Circle all that apply and explain your choice.
