

Name _____

Gerasim's Light, Ivan's Darkness Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

Character	Attitude Toward Death	Attitude Toward Duty/Relationships	Honesty vs. Pretenses	Effect on Ivan
Ivan Ilyich	Fears and resists death; views it as unjust and meaningless.	Seeks social approval, avoids deep emotional bonds.	Lives with pretenses; clings to appearances and status.	His fear and isolation intensify his suffering.
Gerasim	Accepts death as natural and inevitable.	Serves Ivan selflessly and with compassion.	Practices complete honesty; never hides the truth from Ivan.	Offers comfort, eases Ivan's fear, shows him authentic kindness.

Short Answer Analysis (Sample Responses)

1. Ivan fears death and tries to deny it, while Gerasim accepts it openly and treats it as part of life. Praskovya, on the other hand, avoids facing it and is preoccupied with appearances.
2. The contrast shows that honesty and compassion (embodied by Gerasim) bring peace, while social pretense and selfishness (seen in Ivan and Praskovya) deepen suffering.