

## *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* Study Guide

**Directions:** While reading Frank Miller's graphic novel, *The Dark Knight Returns*, answer the following questions. You do **NOT** have to write your responses in complete sentences, but make sure that your answers are thorough and analytical, which means that you will need to write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Then, for each issue - every 2 assignments - pick a panel or page for discussion - write brief, bullet-pointed analysis or an analytical question.

**Keep up with the study guide questions, because 1) they will function as your reading check, in place of reading quizzes and 2) they will help aid you in class discussion.**

Assignment 1: Issue 1 Pages 10-32

1. What happens in the flashback on page 24?
2. Describe the lighting changes used from page 30 to 32.

Assignment 2: Issue 1 Pages 33-55

3. Who is Harvey Dent and what has happened to him? (16 & 42)
4. Who is the Batman villain on page 43?

Assignment 3: Issue 2 Pages 58-83

5. Describe each character's text box - background color, font, font color, etc.  
Commissioner Gordon (58)  
Robin (60)  
Batman (67)  
Mutant Gang Member (67)
6. On page 69, Miller tells a brief story about a woman on a train. What happens to the woman on the train?

Assignment 4: Issue 2 Pages 84-103

7. Who is the president talking to on page 84?
8. Identify 2 different panel transitioning techniques used on page 103.

Assignment 5: Issue 3 Pages 106-128

9. Describe the penciling style and the shape of the panels during the television broadcast on page 115.
10. Why does Batman take responsibility for the lives lost in Joker's explosion on page 117?

Assignment 6: Issue 3 Pages 129-151

11. What do you notice about the formatting of the dialogue on page 146?
12. How does Superman feel about Batman? (135 & 139)

Assignment 7: Issue 4 Pages 154-176

13. Describe the coloring used on page 158.
14. What does the Batman gang do? (172)

Assignment 8: Issue 4 Pages 177-199

15. How do citizens respond during the power outage? (180-3)
16. How does Superman know that Batman is still alive at the end and what does Superman do in response to this revelation? (198)