

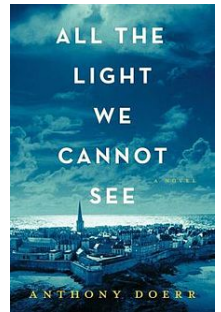
**Assignment:** During the 2019 summer, all students entering the Upper School must...

1. Read *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
2. Write a 2-3 page paper in response to ONE of the prompts listed below.

**\*\*Use the Work Flow Guide to help you keep track as you read, and to help you write your final essay\*\***

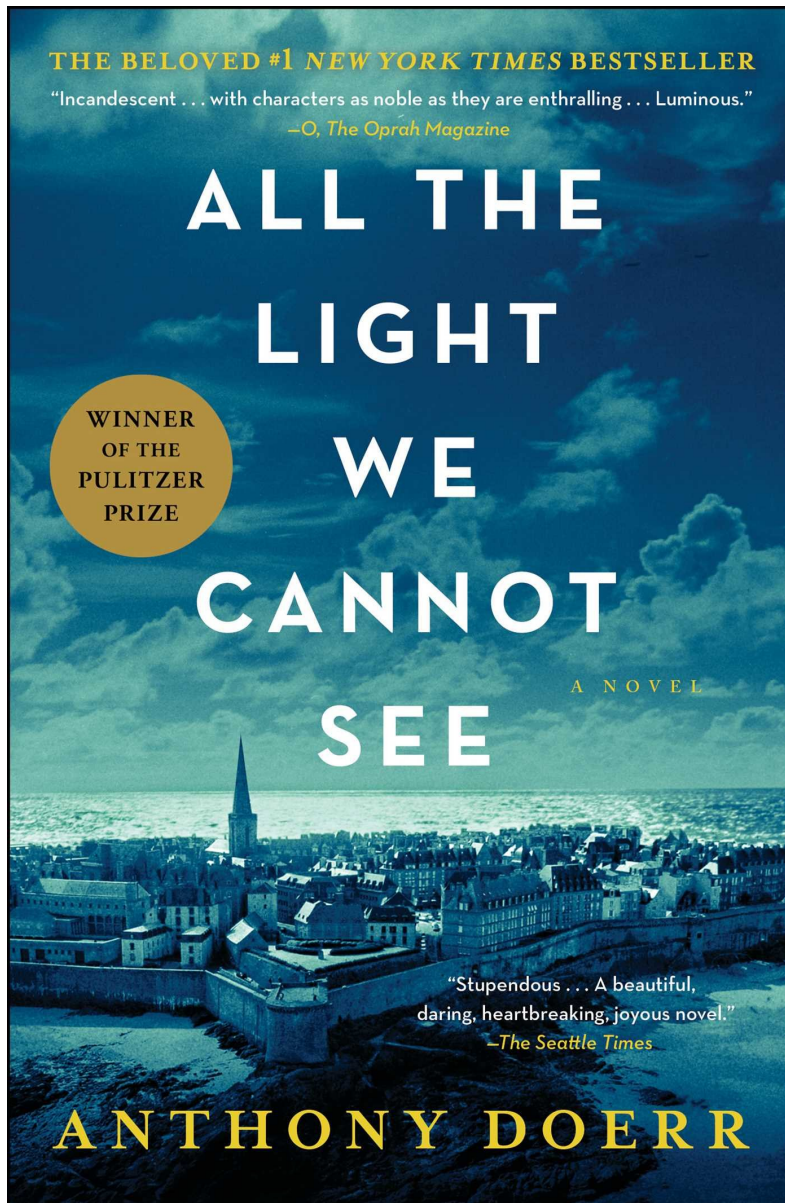
### Introduction to the Novel:

Ten years in the writing, Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* is an epic work of historical fiction. With richly detailed language and characters who are both brave and heartbreaking, Doerr weaves together the stories of a French girl named Marie-Laure who has lost her eyesight and a German orphan named Werner. As Hitler's occupied territory grows, Marie-Laure and Werner's lives and families are torn apart by the war, yet this gorgeous novel is the story of people who, against the odds, find good in one another.



### Possible Essay Prompts:

1. The novel opens with two epigraphs. How do these quotes set the scene for the rest of the novel? Discuss how the radio plays a major part in the story and the time period. How do you think the impact of the radio back then compares with the impact of the Internet on today's society?
2. The narration moves back and forth both in time and between different characters. How did this affect your reading experience? How do you think the experience would have been different if the story had been told entirely in chronological order?
3. On page 368, Werner thinks, "That is how things are . . . with everybody in this unit, in this army, in this world, they do as they're told, they get scared, they move about with only themselves in mind. *Name me someone who does not.*" But, in fact, many of the characters show great courage and selflessness throughout the story in some way, big or small. Talk about the different ways they put themselves at risk in order to do what they think is right. What do you think were some shining moments? Who did you admire most?
4. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once wrote that "the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." *All the Light We Cannot See* is filled with examples of human nature at its best and worst. Discuss the themes of good versus evil throughout the story. How do they drive each other? What do you think are the ultimate lessons that these characters and the resolution of their stories teach us?



*All the Light We Cannot See*  
Anthony Doerr

8-Week Work Flow Guide

## Suggested Reading Calendar

WEEK	PAGES	CHAPTERS
1	1-91	<i>Epigraph</i> – Exodus [All of Parts Zero & One]
2	93-180	Saint-Malo – Museum [Part Two & Start of Part Three]
3	181-270	The Wardrobe – Alive Before You Die [Rest of Part Three, Four, & Start of Part Five]
4	271-358	No Out – The Third Stone [Rest of Part Five, Six, & Start of Part Seven]
5	359-446	The Bridge – Captain Nemo’s Last Words [Rest of Part Seven, Eight, Nine, & Start of Part Ten]
6	447-530	Visitor – <i>Blank Chapter</i> [Rest of Part Ten, Eleven, Twelve, & Thirteen]

### Before you read:

Read the **paper prompts** so you are aware and on the lookout for the themes and plotlines that are appropriate for your chosen prompt. **CHOOSE ONE** of the following:

The novel opens with two epigraphs. How do these quotes set the scene for the rest of the novel? Discuss how the radio plays a major part in the story and the time period. How do you think the impact of the radio back then compares with the impact of the Internet on today's society?

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### As you read:

- 1) **Annotate** in the book by highlighting lines that jump out to you as important, emotionally charged, or impactful. When you find yourself confused, write your questions down in the margins. Circle any cultural or historical events or items that are new to you so you might research them later. Feel free to use the **annotation book mark** on the next page to guide you.
- 2) **Fill in your paper pre-writing notes** as you go with relevant quotes from the text. This is important! It will save you a lot of time when it comes time to write your paper.
- 3) At the end of each chapter, **summarize** what you've read using either of the reading notes options.

### After you read:

- 1) Finish your pre-writing quote collection activity.
- 2) Start the paper writing process (see writing directions)

## Annotation Symbols



Make a prediction



Confirm a prediction

Vocab

Vocabulary



Question or confusing



Interesting



Important



Connection



Agree



Disagree

Reading Notes: Option A

Reading Section:		
Characters (names and descriptions)	Setting(s) (names and descriptions)	Major Plot Points
Unfamiliar Vocabulary:		
Section Summary (in your own words):		

## Reading Notes: Option B

Using index cards (colored or color coded with stickers or highlighters), create the following deck of notes.

### **Yellow cards: Characters**

- On each card, write the name of a character on one side (consider adding a picture on the name side of what you imagine the character would look like).
- On the other side, use the STEAL method to describe the character.
- STEAL stands for:
  - Speech
  - Thoughts
  - Effect on others
  - Actions
  - Looks

### **Pink cards: Settings**

- On each card, write the name of a new setting on one side (consider adding a picture of the setting from the internet).
- On the other side, describe the setting in as much detail as possible. Include why that setting is important or relevant to the characters.

### **Blue cards: Chapter Summaries**

- On each card, write the name of a chapter with its page numbers on one side.
- On the other side, write a 3-5 sentence summary of what happened in the chapter. Remember that you'll also have made character and setting cards, so focus on major events or turning points.

### **Green cards: Vocabulary Words**

- On each card, write an unfamiliar word you came across in your reading (consider adding a picture of the word).
- Find the definition online.
- On the other side of the card, write the definition *in your own words*, 2-3 synonyms, and an original sentence.

Suggested Writing Calendar (2 weeks)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Finish <b>pre-writing notes</b>	Organize quotes by <b>chosen structure</b>	Write a <b>thesis statement</b>	Draft the body of your paper	Finish the draft of body of the paper	Catch up if behind/ relax 😊	Catch up if behind/ relax 😊
Write your <b>introductory paragraph</b>	Write your <b>concluding paragraph</b>	<b>Edit and revise</b> your draft	Edit and revise your draft	<b>Proofread</b> your paper with Grammarly and a human	Celebrate being finished your paper!	Keep celebrating!



## Pre-Writing Notes: How-to

Use the graphic organizer on the next page to help you organize quotes for your paper.

- Make sure you are only tracking ONE theme on a single graphic organizer.
  - Gather quotes as you read to avoid having to go back.
- 1) Copy your quote in the center column and note the page numbers.
  - 2) For each quote, write a few sentences about what is going on in the book at the time. This goes in the "Context" column on the left. Some important things to note:
    - Who is speaking? (Character? Narrator?)
    - Where are the characters?
    - What is going on in the scene?
  - 3) After you have a quote with some context, explain how that quote helps to support your thesis. This goes in the right column, titled "Analysis." You should essentially be answering the questions:
    - How is this quote an example of the theme or concept you are tracking?
    - How does this excerpt shape the way in which the reader experiences the story?
    - How does this excerpt help support whatever you are arguing?

When you go to write your paper, write your introductory paragraph, then move left to right across your evidence. CONTEXT, QUOTE, ANALYSIS. Add a transition sentence. Then again: CONTEXT, QUOTE, ANALYSIS. Repeat this until you have made it through all your evidence. I suggest dividing each quote "bundle" into separate paragraphs. Finish with your concluding paragraph.

This should help you move away from summary and toward analysis.



## Organizational Structures

### Chronological Order

- Chronology=time
- Start with the event that happened first and move in order of occurrence.
- You could also start with the event that happened most recently and move backward in order of occurrence.

### Order of Familiarity

- Number your support and examples in order from the most common or familiar items to the most exotic, rare, or unfamiliar items.
- You could also do this in reverse order, moving from the most exotic to the most mundane.
- This type of organization will build momentum in writing.

### Order of Importance

- Number your support and examples in order of importance or significance to your topic.
- Introduce them in your text in order from most important to least important, or vice versa.
- This type of organization will build momentum in writing.

### Compare and Contrast

- *Comparisons* look at the similarities between two or more items. *Contrasts* look at the differences.
- A point by point organization takes each element of comparison or contrast and examines both items in relation to it separately.
- A block organization, on the other hand, presents all the information about one item before moving on to the next.

### General and Particular

- This type of organization takes broad generalizations and moves towards specific statements.
- Or start with specific statements and compile them into a general conclusion or statement.

### Problem and Solution

- State a problem and offer multiple solutions, concluding with a recommendation.
- Or begin with a question, make multiple proposals or attempts, and conclude with the outcome.

### Cause and Effect

- There are three ways to organize with a cause and effect scheme.
  - 1) Begin with one event and examine the multiple causes.
  - 2) Describe the multiple effects of one course of action or cause.
  - 3) Show a chain of causes and effects which begins with one event and follows the chain reaction to the end result.

## Writing your Thesis Statement

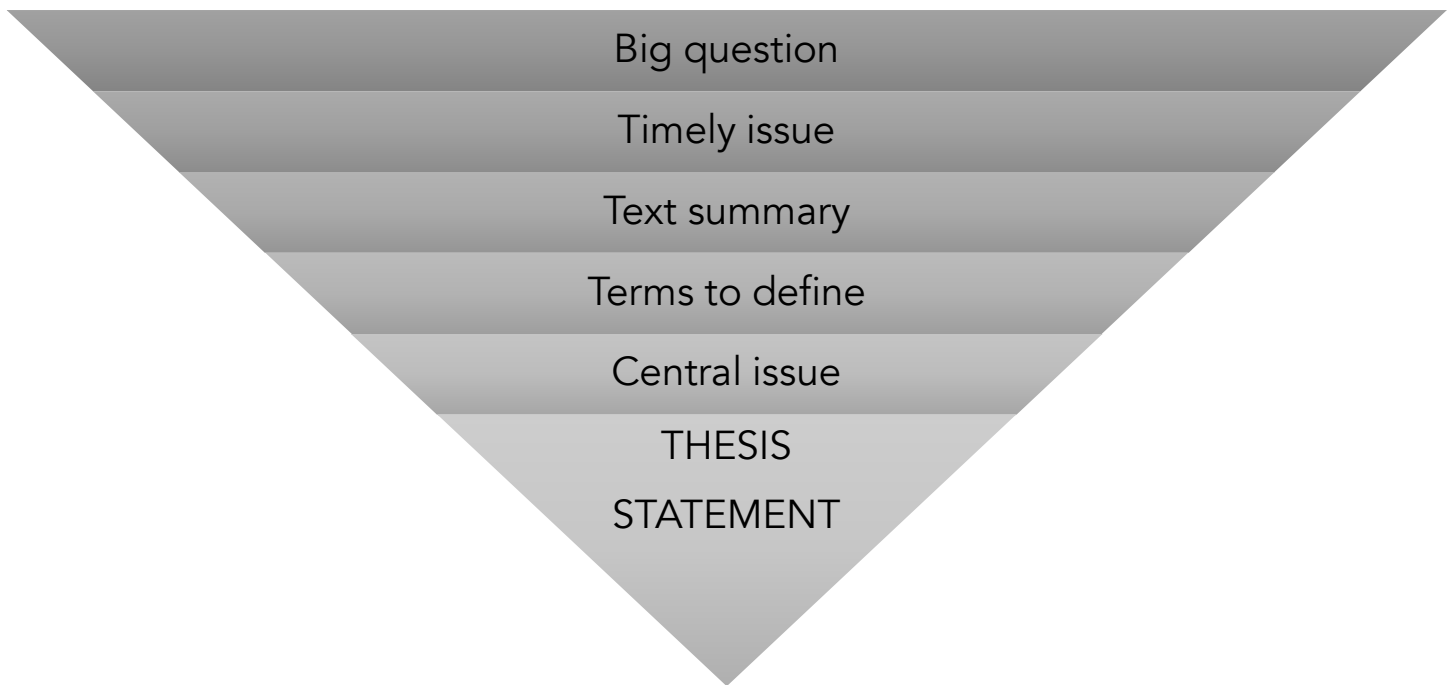
1. What theme are you writing about?
2. Turn the prompt into a question, inserting your chosen theme where appropriate.
3. Now answer that question in one-two sentences.

Topic + Opinion + Evidence= Thesis Statement		
TOPIC	OPINION	EVIDENCE
THESIS STATEMENT		

## Writing your Introductory Paragraph

Your introductory paragraph should follow this basic order:

- 1) Begin with a big idea/ big question (e.g., good vs. evil; power; fantasy vs. reality)
- 2) Explain why it is important/timely to discuss your topic
- 3) Summarize the text, including the title and author's name in your summary
- 4) Define any necessary terms (e.g., what is redemption?)
- 5) Explain the broad topic of your paper (the theme you'll focus on)
- 6) Provide your thesis statement



## Writing your Concluding Paragraph

Your conclusion is the opposite of your introduction. Your introduction started general and got specific. Your conclusion will start specific and get increasingly more general.

Your concluding paragraph should follow this basic order:

- 1) A topic sentence that should summarize what you said in your thesis statement
  - This suggests to your reader that you have accomplished what you set out to accomplish
  - Do not simply restate your thesis statement, as that would be redundant
  - Rephrase the thesis statement with fresh and deeper understanding
- 2) Supporting sentences that summarize what you have already said in the body of your essay
  - If a new idea emerges in the final paragraph, you need to remove it and let it have its own paragraph in the body or leave it out completely
- 3) A closing sentence that should help the reader feel a sense of closure but look outward at the world. Remember, you are returning to the “big idea” mentioned in your introductory paragraph.
  - Demonstrate the importance of your ideas
  - Propel your reader to a new view of the subject
  - End on a positive note
  - Make your readers glad they read your paper

Remember! Your conclusion is not a place to bring up new ideas.

## The Ultimate Editing, Revising, & Proofreading Checklist

- When you were writing your paper, did you pay attention to the comments made by your built-in spell checker?
- Did you put your paper aside for a little bit before returning to it?
- Did you proofread your paper several times—or at the very least, twice?
- Has someone else read your paper and provided you with a peer review?
- Is the topic covered fully and clearly in your essay?
  
- Do you answer all of the questions in the essay prompt?
- Does your paper consist of three parts (introduction, main body, and conclusion)?
- Does your opening paragraph contain the necessary background information or introduction?
- Does your introduction end with a thesis statement that is clear and concise?
- Is each paragraph sufficiently developed and coherent?
  
- Do you use appropriate paragraph breaks?
- Do body paragraphs discuss ideas that are linked to and support your thesis?
- Does each body paragraph contain a topic sentence and a conclusion?
- Is each topic sentence supported with sufficient examples or details?
- Are there clear, logical, and sequential connections between your paragraphs?
  
- Do you use linking words and sentences to make easy transitions between your paragraphs?
- Does your conclusion match and restate your thesis statement?
- Is your title interesting and related to the main idea of your paper?
- Do you use the appropriate tense (past, present, or future)?
- Are your language and tone appropriate for your target audience?
  
- Do all of your sentences contain a subject and a verb? Eliminate any sentence fragments.
- Have you eliminated all run-on sentences (complex sentences that do not contain a conjunction)?
- Do you write sentences of different lengths and types?
- Have you simplified or removed any unnecessarily long and confusing sentences?
- Are your sentences concise? Have you deleted all unnecessary words?
  
- Have you eliminated all contractions?
- Do your verbs always agree with their respective subjects?
- Do you use commas appropriately?
- Does every sentence end with appropriate punctuation?
- Do you follow the rules for quotations?
  
- Is your diction professional? Eliminate colloquialisms such as “basically,” “totally,” or “absolutely.”
- Do you use specific nouns?
- Do you avoid using abstract and unnecessarily general words and images?

- Have you accidentally omitted any words?
- Do you use correct capitalization for titles, proper names, and beginnings of sentences?
  
- Do you avoid common misspellings, such as you're – your, there – their – they're, then – than, and to – too – two?
- Do you use "that" and "which" appropriately and accurately?
- Is your paper free of any incorrect homophones and typos?
- Do you include a works cited or reference page?
- Do you include a sufficient but not overwhelming number of citations and paraphrases throughout your paper?
  
- Do you support all specific claims with a quote from the novel?
- Do you adhere to the MLA formatting style? Check your title page, margins, page numbers, paragraph indentation, running heads, and footnotes and endnotes.
- Is your paper double spaced with no additional lines between paragraphs?
- Do you use a consistent and easy-to-read font such as Times New Roman or Arial?