English II Academic  
Summer Reading Assignment 2023

Task #1: Read and annotate *The House of Rust*  

Task #2: Guiding Questions

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

1) What is the role of storytelling in *The House of Rust*?  
2) What social commentary do you see in *The House of Rust*?  
3) What other important ideas do you see in *The House of Rust*?  
4) Does *The House of Rust* have a first person (I, we, me, etc.) or third person narrator (he, she, it, they, etc.)? How would you characterize the narrator?  
5) What unanswered questions do you have about *The House of Rust*?

Annotation Advice:

There are many ways to interact with a text. Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don’t know, make personal connections, and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotation with your enjoyment of reading.

Book Information:

*The House of Rust* are available on Amazon and other online and in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the book on your own.

Please finish reading and annotating *The House of Rust* before the first day of school and bring your book to your first English class.

*The House of Rust* Synopsis (from amazon.com):

“*The House of Rust* is an enchanting novel about a Hadhrami girl in Mombasa. When her fisherman father goes missing, Aisha takes to the sea on a magical boat made of a skeleton to rescue him. She is guided by a talking scholar’s cat (and soon crows, goats, and other animals all have their say, too). On this journey Aisha meets three terrifying sea monsters. After she survives a final confrontation with Baba wa Papa, the father of all sharks, she . . . hopes that life will return to normal. But at home, things only grow stranger.

Khadija Abdalla Bajaber’s debut is a magical realist coming-of-age tale told through the lens of the Swahili and diasporic Hadhrami culture in Mombasa, Kenya. Richly descriptive and written with an imaginative hand and sharp eye for unusual detail, *The House of Rust* is a memorable novel by a thrilling new voice.”