

# APES Summer Reading Assignments

This summer, you will begin a journey of exploring your place in our environment.

There are two parts to your summer adventure.

1. Read the book, ***Ishmael***, by Daniel Quinn. Answer all the questions with complete thoughts and ideas.
2. Keep current on environmental topics in our state. 5 articles and a reflection about that article. Be sure to attach each article to the reflection with your name on each one. The article and reflection should be level appropriate.

APES will be an avenue for raising your consciousness, promoting social change, and understanding the environment. ***Ishmael*** is a starting point to guide you through this process. The book deals with environmental ethics, philosophy, and religion. Through reading this book, we are forced to deal with preconceived notions of how we humans relate to the environment. This is by no means a science textbook, but an incredible work of fiction that truly makes you think about your personal construct of the environment and how you interact with it individually and we as a society. Please do not wait until the last minute to read this book. It is one of those books where you need to take time to think a little after each chapter. Some ideas are challenging and some are disturbing, but at the very least, it will cause you to think! **The questions will be due on the first day of class, along with 5 newspaper or magazine articles that deal with an environmental problem or issue in our state.**

Enjoy the Summer and I look forward to working with you all next school year!

Mrs. Albertson

## Questions for *Ishmael*

### Chapter 1

- How are people like severed fingers from a hand?
- How are people not like severed fingers from a hand?
- What does it mean for a teacher to fail?
- How is being lied to similar to being a captive?

### Chapter 2

- How are you being held captive?
- What vocabulary, maps, and definitions would you use to tell your story?
- In your own words, tell the story that our culture believes which integrates man, the world, and the gods?

### Chapter 3

- If the Earth is made for humans, what does that mean about how or how much of the Earth's resources humans are free to use?
- How and why does the creation story change by assuming there is a divine agency?

### Chapter 4

- Why is the student frozen up inside? What does that mean? Why is Ismael sorry for him? Is there evidence that suggests he is or is not actually "frozen up inside"?

### Chapter 5

- What do you think makes people mess up the planet on which they live? Is there a fundamental flaw? Explain your answer.
- What does Ishmael mean on page 91 when he says, "the world of thought is coterminous with your culture"?

## **Chapter 6**

- **The student says nothing when Ishmael asserts that there is a knowledge to be gained about how we ought to live. How would you answer him?**
- **If you were a survivor of a crash at the end of the “Taker thunderbolt’s free fall flight, what aspects of our civilization would you keep?**

## **Chapter 7**

- **How is the society of As, Bs, and Cs, like our own? How is it like a Leaver society?**

## **Chapter 8**

- **Is there a reason to believe that we are causing our civilization to fail and our species to become extinct, but that the Earth’s other species will go on?**
- **How is the Taker story fundamentally “unhealthy and unsatisfying” as Ishmael says? What does it promote among the Takers?**

## **Chapter 9**

- **What is the relationship between the Takers being rulers of the world, the knowledge of who shall live and who shall die, the knowledge of good and evil, and the agricultural revolution?**
- **What benefits does the agricultural lifestyle have over the hunter/gatherer lifestyle?**

## **Chapter 10**

- **What are the motivations for the student to find Ishmael and not become failure #5? What are the motivations for Ishmael?**
- **Why does Ishmael not care to explore the field of studies of gorillas?**
- **What evidence do you see in our culture that we value knowledge about what works well for things rather than knowledge about what works well for people? Which kind**

**of knowledge does Ishmael call wisdom? What do you think?**

### **Chapter 11**

- **What are some of the least detestable aspects of Leaver society?**
- **How would you answer Ismael when he asks on p. 228, “ Well are we making progress?”**

### **Chapter 12**

- **Describe the world if humans adopt a new story as the student sees it starting where he left off on p. 244.**

### **Chapter 13**

- **How does this book apply to you? How do you think it will apply to our class?**

### **Last Question:**

**Find a short New Testament Biblical passage and connect it to any main point you took away from reading this book. Be sure to include your scripture quote.**