

British Literature/Composition (Seniors)

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2024

The text that we will be reading over this summer offers a glimpse of excellence in literature from the 20th and 21st centuries. You will be reading Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. The novel, published in 2005, focuses on issues related to time, loss, longing, and identity. The novel was also made into a major motion picture in 2010. Please carefully read the directions below. This assignment will count towards the writing portion of your first semester grade, which is 50% of your overall grade. Therefore, failure to complete this assignment will greatly affect your grade. This handout can be downloaded from the school's website should you need it again. **Please be aware that your grade will be significantly affected if you plagiarize.**

DUE DATE: First Day of Class
Dialectical Journal Entries You will be keeping a dialectical journal for the novel. You are to **handwrite** a dialectical journal for each chapter of the novel (a total of TWENTY-THREE dialectical journal entries). As you read, stop periodically to write a reflection on and analysis based on general literary elements. Write down a quotation/passage from the novel. Then write a meaningful explanation, thought, or question regarding it. The responses should include analysis of various elements of the novel. These elements could include conflict development, character development, setting, themes, and the writer's style (this includes point of view, diction, tone, and syntax). See the second page for a sample of how the Dialectical Journals should look. The purpose of this activity is to develop your skills in critical thinking and reflecting. Therefore, you will be marked down for entries that seem to simply summarize the quotations or ask easily answered questions. Use parenthetical citations (author's name and page number) in MLA format for each of the quotations.

Dialectical Journals. Please bring the book or have access to the complete pdf with you to class. Be prepared for a test given on the novel during the first few weeks of class.

British Literature/Composition Summer reading assignment:
Dialectical Journal entries

You must write at least ONE dialectical journal entry for EVERY chapter of the novel. Be sure to include the page number indicating where the quotation comes from. Be sure to check your work for spelling, grammar, and/or typographical errors. Your "Reflection/Analysis/Questions" section should contain 5 or more complete sentences for each entry. The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify the significance of the text and analyze the passage.

Example

“ the earlier years- the ones I’ve been telling you about- they tend to blur into each other as a kind of golden time... these last years feel different... they were more serious and in some ways darker”(Ishiguro 77).

Kathy’s comparison of her younger years to her early teenage years is the difference of how she was happier in her youth. Kathy also speaks of how her life was uneventful and the practically same routine with the occasional small issue or two. However, she talked of her teenage years as dark and serious. This gives a description of the time period when children begin to see and realize the hard truths of life and how they are not just freely allowed to do whatever they want but must follow rules or accept the consequences.

Throughout the story we see how the protagonist grows and how the people teaching the students truly feel. The individuals who took care of the students during their time at Hailsham only saw the children as creatures for the slaughter house. Deeper into the story, the students, now young adults, also see how those outside the clone schools treated and acted around them, as if they were all alien and didn't belong near them and those they knew. This is a clear example of the isolation given to the clones just because of the fact that the world only sees them as spare parts and nothing more, thus the purpose of the gallery where the guardians test whether the students even have souls to begin with.