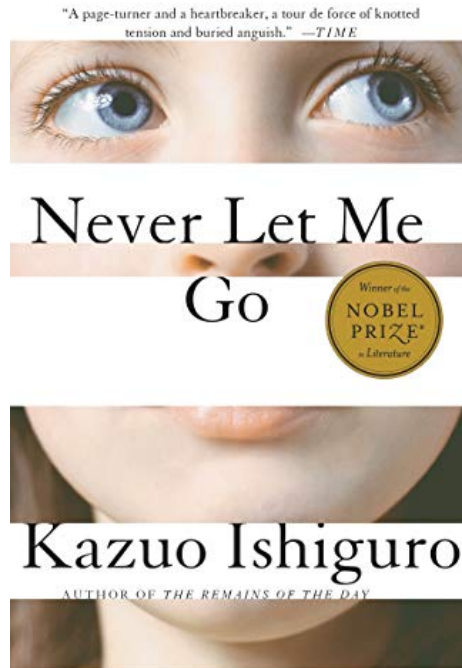


AP English Literature and Composition — 2025 Summer Assignment

Your summer assignment for AP Lit is to read and annotate Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, a contemporary dystopian novel that is also a coming-of-age story. You should use the questions below to guide your annotations as you read. ***Your annotations will be collected on the first day of class.*** Your annotations will also help you prepare for our first week of class discussions and your first in-class essay, which will be on this book.



Read the novel and annotate for the questions below.

1. In some ways, **Hailsham** is very similar to a typical, posh boarding school. But in other ways it's very dissimilar. Annotate for both of these things.
2. What is **Kathy** like as a character and (even more importantly) as a narrator? How does her rosy view of Hailsham shade her narration? Is she a reliable narrator? (How so or why not?)
3. **Ruth** is arguably the villain of the novel. What are Ruth's "villainous" behaviors? What motivates these behaviors? Do you have any sympathy for her in the end? (and, in the end, was she even really the "real" villain?)
4. What is **Tommy's** role throughout the novel? What distinguishes him from the other students at Hailsham?
5. What makes the **mood** of the novel tense, chilling, eerie, or creepy? Look for elements of foreshadowing as well as things that seem to have symbolic meanings.
6. Why don't the characters ever attempt to **break free** of the system? (This is in many ways *the* question of the novel.)