Eng_AP Creative Writing

Mr. Adams

Never Let Me Go Summer Reading Guide

Introduction – In this class you will read differently than you are used to reading for English classes. You should think of the texts in this class as *models* of good writing. Instead of hunting for symbols or character development for the sake of analyzing them in an essay, you should be looking at characters, symbols, settings, and word choice through the lens of how it can improve your own writing. In other words: what can you steal from this author?

As you read *Never Let Me Go,* consider the following questions:

- What is the genre of this text? How does this genre inform the writing style or other decisions Ishiguro makes?

- It is a common writing trope that every sentence should either (a) advance plot, or (b) reveal character. Does Ishiguro honor this maxim? Pay attention to the development of key characters (Kathy, Tommy, Rush, Madame, Miss Emily, Miss Lucy). How does Ishiguro reveal the complexities of these characters? How does he complicate or simplify them?

- One of Ishiguro's superpowers as a writer is his ability to let tension mount as a story progresses. What is the clear tension that permeates the first half of the text? How does it reveal itself? Then, where does this mounting tension finally break in the second half of the text? What's the resulting fallout?

- By focusing almost entirely on non-human characters, Ishiguro ultimately uses this text to explore something fundamental about what it means to be human. What statement does this text make about what it means to be human? What power does this bestow upon us as readers and creative writers?

As a final exercise, challenge yourself by trying to write a paragraph that could fit into a key moment in this text. Pick a scene you really like and see if you can make a paragraph of your own work blend into the text. What decisions would you need to make to emulate Ishiguro's style? How would you focus on plot, character, setting, tension, etc.?