

English II Summer Reading Assignment

Please **read and annotate** BOTH of the following books. Thoughtful, careful, and reflective reading takes time. Unplug and disconnect from your digital world and read with a pencil in hand, underlining passages and making notes in the margins. Use sticky tabs or Post-Its to mark pages. Don't worry about underlining or marking the "wrong" passages or pages—this is *your* reading experience.

As you read, think. Think about not only what's going on in the text, but what messages are conveyed, and how? What values are promoted and encouraged, and what values are discouraged or looked upon with disdain? Is the writer criticizing an aspect of his or her society? What is being mocked, mourned, celebrated, or lamented? These are just a few questions you might consider as you figure out what you think about the text you are reading. You can also follow this guide for reading and annotating, and keep in mind that we'll have a quiz in the first week of school, followed by several weeks of class discussion and a graded writing assignment:

- Look for the development of certain **themes, metaphors, and symbols**;
- Examine how **characterization** is achieved;
- Consider **point of view** and how the story is told (Who is the narrator? Is the story chronological? How are flashbacks used and why?);
- Explore how **setting** is depicted and what this reveals about characters and themes;
- Consider the language in each novel and how the language contributes thematically.

Required Books:

[Little Bee by Chris Cleave](#)

The lives of Little Bee, a sixteen-year-old Nigerian orphan, and Sarah, a magazine editor in London, collide in this page-turning novel about grief, globalization, and unlikely friendship. As Little Bee and Sarah alternate chapters, their stories reveal who they are, how they came to know each other, and why their lives are now intertwined.

[Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro](#)

Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy are students at Hailsham in the 1990s. Hailsham seems like a pleasant English boarding school, far from the influences of the city. Its students are well tended and supported, trained in art and literature, and become just the sort of people the world wants them to be. But, curiously, they are taught nothing of the outside world and are allowed little contact with it. As both a mystery and a love story, the novel is gripping and memorable as it builds, layer upon layer.