

Incoming 11th-Grade Summer Reading & Writing Assignment

Over the summer, please read *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. When we gather for class in September, the first unit of the year will cover the genre of the American short story. We will read a variety of diverse authors who - through their works of fiction - make wildly different statements about the United States. Kazuo Ishiguro is seen as one of the contemporary greats in this category, and his work *Klara and the Sun* acts as a beautifully structured, impossibly creative and inventive collection that recently earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature.

For each “Part” within the novel (yes, you have to do this **Six separate times), I would like you to:**

- 1. Think deeply about what you believe is Ishiguro’s purpose to this individual section. Then, write a one-sentence argument (thesis statement) where you identify what Ishiguro is emphasizing about the human beings in his story?**

Example: In the short story “The Bad Graft,” Karen Russell uses the spirit of a Joshua Tree to overshadow her human characters’ actions, and to make a larger statement about how brief and fragile a human life can be.

- 2. Identify any literary or rhetorical devices that you can find in each story. Here is a brief list:**

Ethos/Pathos/Logos	Diction	Imagery	Tone
Symbolism	Metaphor	Simile	Analogy
Personification	Hyperbole	Understatement	Euphemism

- 3. For each part, write a one-paragraph argumentative piece where you answer the following question: “What rhetorical or literary strategies does Ishiguro use to further the purpose of his narrative?” In other words, In 5-8 sentences, combine your answers from questions one and two, above. Please allow your opening sentence to act as your thesis statement, and use at least two quotes from the text to support your argument. Again, you must do this for every chapter.**

This assignment should be shared with Eliot Taft (etaft@crms.org) by **Thursday, August 20th at 6pm**. I would recommend you spend at least 12 days on this - If you read half of one part of the novel per day, and complete these writing details on the following day each time, you will be able to complete this in just under two weeks.