



Honors 4 British Literature - Summer Assignment

The Honors 4 British literature course is a chronological survey of works beginning in the Anglo-Saxon time period---that is a long time ago! As much as I try we never quite make it to the modern authors although we will read *1984* and/or *The Handmaid's Tale* during the school year. So for summer you will choose a novel that was recently (relatively) published.

Choose one of the following novels to read. Then write a two to three-page personal response to the novel. In your response consider the following points:

Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not? (Be honest!)

Which section of the novel was the most significant—to you or to book as a whole? Why?

Did a character resonate with you? Why or why not?

Did you have sympathy for a character or even hatred? Why or why not?

Does the book relate to our world today? How so? Is the author's message still relevant?

Is there a personal experience, observation that you remember while reading?

Did the author make you question our world? What are some of those questions that the author wants her readers to ask?

You do not have to address each point, and you may add to the discussion. Also use this opportunity to share a personal story or observation so that I can learn about you. Use MLA (12 point Times New Roman, double spaced but respond in first-person voice). We will upload your response to Google Classroom the first day. Also bring a copy of your novel. You are required to bring a hard copy of the text; digital copies will not be allowed.

The choices:

Atonement (2002) Ian McEwan

Rebecca (1938) Daphne du Maurier

The Remains of the Day (1989) Kazuo Ishiguro

White Teeth (2000) Zadie Smith

Please select the novel you would be most interested to read. Don't base your choice on the number of pages. Read carefully for a reading quiz and essay when we return to school. You will also be responsible for leading a group discussion on the novel. As you read you may want to annotate your novel noting character and thematic development, writing style, and other observations. Do NOT rely on SparkNotes or any other online source. I will check my email periodically throughout the summer so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Enjoy your summer! I am looking forward to seeing you in class next year!

Ms. Shifflette