

Summer Reading – English IV British Literature



Dear Class of 2017 Student & Parent / Guardian:

Welcome to Summer Reading 2016. This summer, you will be reading two books. The goal of summer reading is to give you the opportunity to further develop your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills by enjoying and thinking about what you read. The book choices reflect subjects and themes pertinent to English IV. *Never Let Me Go* and *Notes from a Small Island* both explore how and why individuals are morally and socially responsible as well as questioning the consequences of actions and decisions. *Never Let Me Go* and *Notes from a Small Island* can both be found at your local library and can be downloaded and read on your Kindle, Nook, I-Pad or other electronic reading device. With these various means for locating the books, there should be no excuse for not attaining a copy.

The best kind of reading to improve critical thinking is active reading. Active reading is different from leisure reading. It involves questioning, relating, and evaluating the story. It involves treating the story as a life experience, something that provides insight into people and their motivations, emotions and experiences.

Critical thinking is important to function successfully in our modern, global society and important for you, individually. When we don't examine our lives, we make mistakes that can cost us significantly, both personally and financially. Relationships can be ruined and chances overlooked or lost entirely. On the other hand, thinking critically can lead to richer, more fulfilling relationships with others, greater financial stability, and many other benefits.

Have a safe and healthy summer, and remember that reading and writing helps you think about your life, which can provide abundance unknown otherwise. Consider the words of Socrates:

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

THE PROCESS:

September 2016: There will be a writing assessment based on both books. We will discuss details during the week of September 6 when you return to school

SELECTIONS:

Never Let Me Go by *Kazuo Ishiguro*

Notes from a Small Island by *Bill Bryson*