

# CCP English Summer Reading Assignment 2021

**Directions:** The following questions are to be typed in MLA format (heading, header, spacing, font, title, margins) and handed in on the first day of class. Answers must be in paragraph form (a **minimum** of five sentences with proper capitalization, punctuation and sentence structure). Be sure to follow all MLA writing rules (no you's, no contractions, etc.) Also, be sure that all work is entirely your own. Any work that resembles another student's or that resembles information online is grounds for plagiarism, subject to penalty.

## ***Never Let Me Go***

Answer any 3 of the following questions:

1. Kathy's narration is the key to the novel's disquieting effect. First person narration establishes a kind of intimacy between narrator and reader. What is it like having direct access to Kathy's mind and feelings? How would the novel be different if narrated from Tommy's point of view, or Ruth's, or Miss Emily's?
2. One of the most notable aspects of life at Hailsham is the power of the group. Students watch each other carefully and try on different poses, attitudes, and ways of speaking. Is this behavior typical of most adolescents, or is there something different about the way the students at Hailsham seek to conform?
3. Some reviewers have expressed surprise that Kathy, Tommy, and their friends never try to escape their ultimate fate. They cling to the possibility of deferral, but never attempt to vanish into the world of freedom that they view from a distance. Yet they love the film *The Great Escape*, the "moment the American jumps over the barbed wire on his bike" (Ishiguro 99). Why might Ishiguro have chosen to present them as fully resigned to their early deaths?
4. The teacher Lucy Wainright wanted to make the children more aware of the future that awaited them. Miss Emily believed that in hiding the truth, "We were able to give you something, something which even now no one will ever take from you, and we were able to do that principally by sheltering you . . . Sometimes that meant we kept things from you, lied to you . . . But . . . we gave you your childhoods (Ishiguro 268). If you were in Kathy's shoes, whose would you advocate--Lucy's or Emily's? With the context of the story in mind, defend your view.

## ***The Picture of Dorian Gray***

Answer any 3 of the following questions:

1. Discuss Dorian's portrait. What does it represent? What does it suggest about the effect of experience on the soul? Why does Dorian hide it in the attic?
2. Discuss the ending: what does it mean?
3. Choose any three characters. Do you find them believable? Why or why not? (If not, do you think Wilde might have purposely drawn them as such?)
4. Is Dorian responsible for the ruined lives of his friends? Is Lord Henry responsible for the ruined life of Dorian? When *is* someone responsible?