

HISP@CKM

HISP 11 Literature Summer Reading 2025

Summer Reading Assignment: You will read the novel *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Annotate as you read: Look for details that are interesting, troubling, or connect to prior knowledge. Highlight the writing and include a margin note. Use the annotation bookmark as a tool to focus your annotation. We are looking for about 5 quality annotations per chapter, sometimes more depending on the length and content of the chapter. Be aware, we will look for steady annotation throughout; you will be marked down for annotations that dry up or disappear in the last chapters of the book. What we are looking for is thoughtful, active reading from beginning to end.

Tips for annotation: We want you to read and enjoy this novel. Think about it, and consider how it speaks to you or how it makes you think about the world in a new way. The following questions are meant to help you look for points of significance that relate to the topics we will discuss at the start of the year. These are the same questions we will give you in bookmark form. As you annotate, add the question number to your margin note or color code your highlights by question. But feel free to ADD to these annotations. If you find passages that stand out to you in a different way, make note of it with a “5” or highlight in an alternate color, and share your thoughts with us upon our return to school.

1. How do the characters use the power of **names and naming** as a way to connect AND a way to control? How does Lahiri show that names are powerful?
2. How does Lahiri use the art of **drawing** to develop themes about identity, expression, progress and tradition? How can the act of drawing parallel the act of telling a story or **narrative**?
3. How does Lahiri use **symbolism** to create links between past and present, heritage and assimilation, control and independence? Look for the motifs of: **trains, books, graves**.
4. What is a “**community**”? How does Lahiri create various communities in the novel? How can a community build and nurture a sense of self-identity? How can a community damage or control that sense of self-identity?

Back-to-school In-Class Assignments: During the first two weeks of school we will spend class time discussing the content of the novel and its connection to our American Literature curriculum. *During the second week of school, you will use your class discussion notes and your personal annotations in the novel to compose an in-class essay reflecting on one of the central themes of the novel.* We will also collect your annotated novels on the day that our essay is due.

If you get stuck and have questions, email one of the teachers:

Elissa-downney@scusd.edu or: jennifer-hofmann@scusd.edu

HISP American History HP

For your U.S. History class, you will be reading and annotating The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to author Alex Haley. Annotated books will be collected on the first day of class. You will be given an in class-writing assignment and test upon our return in the fall. This book will explain to you, in his own words, the life and work of one of America's most impactful civil rights activists, Malcolm X. The story of Malcolm's life and activism is vividly told in an easily read biography. His life is a story of transformation and evolution and no doubt will serve as a source of inspiration for you as you continue on your journey through life

Instructions: You are to use either two different colors of highlighter or two different colors of post it notes as you annotate the book this summer. You will use one color to annotate moments of formation or formative events in the life of Malcom X. An example of formation or a formative experience in Malcom X's life would have been his being born into a family led by an activist father, who was a follower of Marcus Garvey, who early on introduced him to black activism. Another example of formative experience would be the loss of his father and the poverty in his life that ensued. You will use a separate color to annotate/highlight transformative moments in his life, like his being taken from his mother and sent to a reform school for boys where he begins to understand the racism that permeated his life. If you have any doubt as to whether an event is formative or transformative, go with your instinct. You will not lose any points if you consider an event formative and the teacher considers it transformative. However there are definite moments in Malcolm's life that transform him, so be sure to catch these major events. Your writing prompt at the beginning of the year will reference his transformative moments. A multiple choice test will test basic facts and moments in the book. **We will collect your book to make sure you annotated so please bring it to school the first day.**

If you have any questions feel free to email:

Brett-Limonoff@scusd.edu

or Anthony-Meza2@scusd.edu

We will be looking at our email starting in mid-August.