

Summer Assignment: English II Honors Seminar

Book: *Klara and the Sun: A Novel* by Kazuo Ishiguro (2021) ISBN: 978-0-571-36487-9 (Hardback)

Students enrolled in English II Honors Seminar must complete all parts of the assignment by the second Wednesday of the school year. This must be typed. For questions about the assignment or more information on English II Honors Seminar, please contact Dr. Smith at cody.smith@montverde.org

Part I. The Novel

Read the novel *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro, making note of content, plot structure, character development, and overall thematic purpose.

Part II. The Essay

After reading the novel, choose ONE of the essay prompts below and respond in a four or five paragraph essay of approximately 400-500 words. Be sure to provide evidence from the novel in your essay.

1. Throughout the novel, Klara is a symbol of faith. She often stands in opposition to Mr. Capaldi's scientific rationality—though he also argues for a faith in rationality. How are faith and science positioned as polar opposites? How do they overlap? Do you agree that there should be “faith in rationality”?
2. With Klara and Josie in mind, it can be said that the women in the novel are often quick to sacrifice for their loved ones while the men in the novel are portrayed as more independent. What role does gender play in *Klara and the Sun*?
3. The setting of *Klara and the Sun* is sometime in the future when Artificial Intelligence is greatly integrated into society. Consider our society today: which elements of the novel felt familiar to you and which elements felt hard to imagine? Why? Which elements were easy to imagine as a possibility for your lifetime?
4. What is the role of “love” in the novel? Would you describe the relationship between Klara and Josie as love? Where did you notice other examples of genuine love throughout the novel?

Part III. The Movie

Kazuo Ishiguro's work is no stranger to the silver screen. In fact, his science fiction novel, *Never Let Me Go* (2005) was made into a 2010 movie with the same name starring Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan, and Andrew Garfield. Before Ishiguro's novel *Klara and the Sun* was even released, Sony and Elizabeth Gabler's 3000 Pictures purchased the film rights to the adaptation.

Consider the main characters of this novel—Klara, Josie, Rick—and the other supporting characters.

Select ten characters from *Klara and the Sun* and select ten celebrities to play them in a movie. Provide a 2-3 sentence explanation as to why you've selected these celebrities in particular. *As an alternative, you're welcome to write two paragraphs describing your cinematic vision. In other words, how would you create the *Klara and the Sun* movie? Consider locations for filming, lighting, costumes, set pieces, etc.