

***Never Let Me Go* Novel Outline**

Modified from Ms. Camera's AP Literature Novel Outline

This assignment will not only demonstrate how closely you read the assigned text, but a thorough outline will help you prepare for the summer reading exam. This is to be completed independently--that means you may NOT work with a partner, you may NOT refer to Sparknotes or the internet or any other resources (besides the text itself). Everything you write must be your ORIGINAL work. It will be submitted on Turnitin.com, and you know what happens if it turns out any of your paper is plagiarized... so don't do it.

I. Bibliographical information

Author. *Title*. Publishing City: Publisher, date of publication.

II. Character list

List the central characters of the novel (Kathy, Ruth, Tommy, Miss Geraldine, Miss Lucy, Miss Emily, Madame, Chrissie, Rodney, and any others you find significant). After each character, provide a brief description of each. Include physical descriptions, actions, and things each character does or says that you find significant.

III. Plot Summary

Provide a concise summary of the novel in a single paragraph. What are the main events that make up the story. If it helps, you may think about this in terms of a plot diagram - what is the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. Again, SINGLE paragraph, and not one of those three page paragraphs, either, people!

IV. Setting

Write a paragraph in which you identify the setting, and connect the setting to other elements of fiction (plot, conflict, character, point of view, theme). This should be pretty personal, and it will show me how you think about setting and elements of fiction. Don't worry about it being right or wrong. I want to see your thought process.

V. Significance of Title

Write a paragraph in which you reflect on the significance of the novel's title. What did you think it would be about before you read the novel? How did that change as you read the novel and learned more? Did your analysis of the title change after you finished the novel? Explain why or why not.

VI. Point of View

Explain how the point of view contributes to the story. Please remember that I want to know if you understand the differences between first person, third person limited, and third person omniscient, so please use those terms as well as character names.

VII. Themes

Write a paragraph that provides one possible theme for the novel. You may not have done this before, but I am asking you to state the theme in a statement that reveals a universal truth. This means your theme must be in a sentence. You will need to include at least two quotes from the text (with explanation/analysis in your own words) in order to prove your theme. All quotes must be cited correctly - Author's last name and page number - just like this: (Ishiguro 753). Notice the punctuation? Don't stick a comma in the middle. That's APA citation and we use MLA.

***You may NOT use a variation of the theme below. Trust me, there are a lot of potential themes for *Never Let Me Go*.

Wrong: The theme of the novel is conformity.

Right: Conformity is dangerous, for it eliminates thought and can lead to moral decrepitude.

***Seriously, if you write "the theme is..." in your theme statement, I will throw a pen at your head.

VIII. Tone

This is likely to be difficult for you, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try! Identify two tone words that describe the text. Tone is the author's attitude towards the subject. If you are stuck, try this trick. If you had to pick one of the following categories, which would you choose to describe *Never Let Me Go*: MAD/SAD/GLAD? Of course you can't say mad, sad or glad, so think of appropriate synonyms: outraged, somber, joyful, amused, condescending, etc.

Once you have determined the tone, please provide examples (quotes) from the text that prove each of your tones.

IX. Other elements

Symbol - Please explain what symbols you have seen in the text. What objects are symbols, and what do they represent?

Figurative language - Identify a piece of figurative language in the text. Explain what it is (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, oxymoron, etc) and why it stood out to you. What did this piece of figurative language reveal to you about the characters, plot or theme?