

AICE LANGUAGE A-LEVEL 2021 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to AICE Language A-Level – this course provides students with a strong foundation in the study of linguistics, focusing on spoken language, English as a global language, language and personal identity, and child language acquisition. In preparation for the year ahead, read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri and complete the following items.

Directions: As you read *The Namesake*, take notes that help you develop responses to the following Socratic Seminar questions. You will prepare a written response that includes textual evidence for each of the questions below (350 words or more). You will bring this to class on the first day of school and participate in a guided discussion of the book in the first week as well as a multiple-choice reading comprehension test. This assignment (the written response, your verbal participation in the discussion, and the test) will be a significant quarter 1 grade.

1. Jhumpa Lahiri has said, "The question of identity is always a difficult one, but especially for those who are culturally displaced, as immigrants are...who grow up in two worlds simultaneously." How does Gogol try to remake his identity, after choosing to rename himself, and what is the result? How do our names define us? What do you think Gogol wants most from his life? How is it different from what his family wants for him? Do you want something different for yourself from what your parents want for you?
2. Lahiri has said of *The Namesake*, "America is a real presence [like another character] in the book; the characters must struggle and come to terms with what it means to live here, to be brought up here, to belong and not belong here." Did *The Namesake* allow you to think of America in a new way? Do you agree that "America is a real presence" in *The Namesake*? How is India also a "presence" in the book?
3. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author and current director of Princeton University's Program in Creative Writing, Lahiri was born in London and raised in Rhode Island, first speaking her parents' language, Bengali. She learned English as she grew, initially by watching children's television shows like Sesame Street and the Electric Company. What role does **language** play in *The Namesake*? To what extent do you think language is important to Gogol's self-identity? How important is language to your self-identity?

Need help finding the book? Plan ahead! There are some copies of *The Namesake* available on a first-come, first-served basis-- see Ms. Enneking in room 2-110. You will also be able to find copies to borrow from our Manatee County Libraries. If you prefer to purchase your own copy of the book, it is available at Books-a-Million and Barnes and Noble. It is also available to order on-line through Amazon and Half Price Books.

Questions? If you have any questions, please contact either Ms. Enneking ennekinge@manateeschools.net or

