**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 March 28, 2023**

**Today’s Agenda (Day 133)**

1. Homework Check:

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1. Class Activity:

🡪 THE NAMESAKE - discussion

🡪**JOURNAL PROMPT #15 – Culture**

1. Is it more meaningful to be born into a culture than to join it—or is it more significant to join the culture by choice? Does the answer differ based on what type of culture it is? Why?
2. Do cultures define who we are as people—or do our shared experiences define culture? Why?
3. Think about a time when you were the only person with a given characteristic in the entire room (such as the only girl or boy, the only person wearing jeans when everyone else was dressed up, or the only child in a room full of adults). Did people treat you differently from how they treated others? Did you experience any discomfort at not fitting in? Write about your experience.

HOMEWORK:

* BEGIN: The Namesake – ~~Ch 7 – 9 [Wed, Mar. 22]; Ch 10 – end [Fri, Mar 22]~~
* STUDY:
* **TERM ESSAY #4:** Write a narrative essay telling us about your journey (or your family's) towards the "American Dream" (or equivalent). Are your experiences similar/different from those depicted by the literary works? Ponder the following issues listed below in your narrative essay:

1. While doing so, examine how these literary works relate to the American Dream. Cite evidence from the literary works.
2. Consider if there is one "American Dream" or are there many different ones? Explain. Cite evidence as appropriate.
3. Discuss the literary works' parents' acceptance (or lack thereof) of the American lifestyle; do they support of their children’s choice of lifestyles? Explain. Compare and contrast with YOUR parents' acceptance (or lack thereof) of the American lifestyle. Do they support YOUR choice of lifestyle? Explain.
4. What do these literary works say about the Americans and their dreams? What is YOUR perspective of the contemporary American and their dreams?

* Term 4 Essay to be written in class: **April 18 & 19**

The Namesake - Vocabulary

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Abate | Abhor | Acrid | Agitated | Albeit | Aloof | Anecdote |
| Anomaly | Apprehensive | Arbitrary | Auspicious | Avert | Banal | Bequeath |
| Chide | Coalition | Commemorate | Concede | Conjure | Context | Covet |
| Culminate | Dais | Diffident | Disconcerting | Dismayed | Disparage | Dissertation |
| Dwelling | Elicit | Elusive | Emaciated | Emancipated | Endearing | Entity |
| Exasperated | Excruciating | Façade | Fastidious | Fleeting | Fresco | Haughty |
| Heritage | Highlight | Imply | Indifferent | Indulgent | Listless | Midwife |
| Momentous | Monopoly | Morose | Nostalgia | Novel | Obsolete | Parched |
| Pensive | Perish | Perpetually | Precarious | Preside | Probate | Profound |
| Prudent | Relentless | Remnant | Replenishing | Resignation | Respective | Reveres |
| Solace | Sulk | Unwittingly | Warrant | Wrest |  |  |

REMINDERS:

* THE NAMESAKE NOVEL QUIZ #2 [Ch 7 –12] 🡪 Mar. 30

**(H)ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 2022-23 NOVEL ACTIVITY**

**THE NAMESAKE – Jhumpa Lahiri**

## PART 2

## Discussion Question 11

## Discuss the changes Ashoke's death brought to the characters of Ashima, Gogol and Sonia. Each responds in a different way. Does each character react the way the reader would expect them to? Does one character have a healthier reaction? Who do they turn to most for support? Cite examples from Chapter 7 to support your answers.

## Discussion Question 12

## Write a letter of a half page to a page as if it was written by Maxine to friends describing Ashoke's death and how she tried to help him through this difficult time.

## Then write a letter of a few paragraphs such as Gogol might have written to Maxine telling her why he can no longer live in her world but must return to his Indian roots and explain why he has made such a decision.

## Discussion Question 13

## What is irony? What is ironic in Chapter 8? Discuss the irony of a person who has spent almost his entire life running from something that makes him unhappy then turning to that very thing to find happiness. What event caused Gogol to turn to his Indian cultural roots? Does this make him happy? What event happens to make him think he might find happiness within the framework of his Indian culture?

## Discussion Question 14

## Write a couple of paragraphs explaining possible influences each country that Moushumi has lived in may have had on her developing personality. Cite both positive and negative ways. Does she represent any of the same themes in the book at Gogol? What is her purpose in this novel?

## Discussion Question 15

## Discuss the irony of two second-generation immigrants from India who have fought against their traditional Indian heritage for most of their lives choosing to marry in a culturally correct Indian ceremony. In what ways did the ceremony follow American traditions? What kind of gifts did the couple mostly get? What is the significance of this? Cite examples from Chapter 9 to support your statements.

## Discussion Question 16

## After the wedding ceremony and reception, the author shows Gogol and Moushumi as so worn out that they almost wish they weren't supposed to be enjoying their new relationship. What does this say about their relationship? What problems does Moushumi's past cause for this first year of their marriage? What is the potential of these problems to cause serious problems for the couple? Cite examples from Chapter Nine to support your answers.

## Discussion Question 17

## What happens on Moushumi and Gogol's first anniversary? What incident occurs later in Chapter 10 to reveal the depth of Moushumi's unhappiness with her marriage? Does she follow up on the incident? If so, how? What does she do? What does this say about the character of Moushumi? Cite examples from Chapter 10 to support your answers.

## Discussion Question 18

## List the things in Chapter 10 that Moushumi felt were an insult to her as an Indian immigrant. Write a paragraph or two telling how she translated those feelings to her feelings about her marriage.

## Discussion Question 19

## In chapter 12, Ashima's character is finally fully realized. Explain how she is the same woman as at the beginning of the book and how she has changed. What about Ashima's character causes her to struggle against American culture and what about her character causes her to enjoy American culture. Tell how the author uses Ashima's character and what she has Ashima's character do to show that it is possible to live comfortably in two cultures. Cite examples from the book to support your answer.

## Discussion Question 20

## Discuss Gogol's character development from birth to the end of Chapter 12. What incidents have brought him to this place in his life? How does the author show his final emotional state? Does the author bring the promise of the themes from early in the book full circle? Cite examples from the book to support your answer.

## PART 1

## Discussion Question 1

## Compare and contrast Ashima and Ashoke. What are their goals in life as stated in this chapter? What differences do you see in their personalities that come from those differing goals? Which character is more firmly rooted in traditional Indian culture and why? What happened to Ashoke that moved him further from Indian culture than might otherwise be expected?

## Discussion Question 2

## In two paragraphs, debate the practicality of the cultural ways of naming babies, the American and the Indian ways and which is more practical.

## Discussion Question 3

## Dual cultural identity is one of the themes of this book. Discuss how Ashima and Ashoke gradually absorb the American as well as their native Indian culture and the problems American culture causes Ashima in particular. Cite examples from Chapter 2 to illustrate this happening. Do you believe either of them is aware of this merging of cultural identities? If so, do you believe they accept the change willingly or do they resent it? Cite examples from Chapter 2 to illustrate your beliefs.

## Discussion Question 4

## Write a couple of paragraphs discussing the advantages and disadvantages for immigrants from India living in neighborhoods where most of their neighbors are people from their home country in terms of learning about America.

## Discussion Question 5

## Discuss the differences between American and Indian cultures as described in Chapter Four. Mark those differences that bothered Gogol and Sonia the most.

## Discussion Question 6

## Discuss the scenes in which the author shows Gogol's dissatisfaction with his cultural heritage. How does she show that dissatisfaction during his fourteenth birthday party? How does she show it through the family visit to India? How does she show it after the family return to America? Cite examples from Chapter 4 to support your answers.

## Discussion Question 7

## What steps does Gogol take to deliberately create a new lifestyle for himself which is different from that of his family and his childhood? Describe his actions and cite examples from Chapter 5 to support your answers.

## Make a list of the people Gogol makes friends with in college. Discuss how those people came into his life and what about those particular people appeal to him. How do they influence him and aid in his change or personal growth?

## Discussion Question 8

## Come up with a list of characteristics that Gogol wants in a woman and another list of characteristics his parents would like to see in a woman he might have a relationship with. Are there any characteristics on both lists? Why or why not?

## Explain how the relationship with Ruth ends and what effect this has on Gogol. Is the breakup related to Gogol's Indian heritage? What does this breakup signal for Gogol's future romantic relationships?

## Discussion Question 9

## How does the author show Gogol's physical separation from his family and his childhood home? Is this separation by choice or by necessity? What happens when he attends a party with a friend from the firm where he now works? What does he admire about Maxine and her family? Why? Describe the life Gogol lives with the Ratliffs during this stage of his life. Does he believe he has found happiness? Do you believe Gogol is now the person he has always wanted to be? Cite examples from Chapter 5 and 6 to support your answer.

## Discussion Question 10

## How does the author show the ever-growing gulf between Gogol and his family and heritage? How does the author compare and contrast Gogol's home with Maxine's? How does she use the characters of Maxine and Ashima to then further intensify those cultural differences?