

## **PRE-AP (ENG II) SUMMER READING**

### SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT – *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn

The novel *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn is designed to present and develop the Socratic method of analysis and synthesis in order to reach the most LOGICAL conclusion. The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. “You are the teacher?” he asks incredulously. “I am the teacher,” the gorilla replies. Ishmael is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard. It is a story that extends backward and forward over the lifespan of the earth from the birth of time to a future there is still time to save. Ishmael’s proverb, “With gorilla gone, will there be hope for man? With man gone, will there be hope for gorilla?” is posted behind Ishmael and is the focus of the extended debate that ensues between Ishmael and the student. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man’s destiny to rule the world? Or is it a higher destiny possible for him—one more wonderful than he has ever imagined?

During the semester, you will learn to analyze samples of text (including *Ishmael* and texts in both nonfiction and fiction genres) and develop skills that are needed to understand and develop logical arguments, engage in debates, develop persuasive arguments, etc.

**Your summer assignments to accompany your reading of the novel are as follows:**

Assignment #1: As you read the novel, record unfamiliar vocabulary words, and write responses to the discussion questions attached.

Assignment #2: Analyzing arguments: (**Note: It is important that you begin to construct graphic organizers to analyze text.**) Use the chart template or construct your own chart to record details about the various arguments to determine how the author manipulates readers to accept Ishmael’s logical argument.

Assignment #3: Construct your own graphic organizer or use the template of the sample to compare the specific characteristics of the “TAKER” and “LEAVER”.

Assignment #4: Write an 800-1000 word essay (approx. 3 to 3 ½ pages) in which you construct an argument in which you, first, identify yourself as a “Taker” or a “Leaver” and argue for or against Quinn’s logic. ***Be sure to include evidence from to support your points the novel and point out any of Quinn’s arguments that appear to be illogical to you.***

Your organizers can be in any form (i.e., chart, web form, table, etc.) on which you can record elements that you find as you read. Be sure to record the page numbers of the evidence that you record as you must note the page numbers of your supporting evidence in your essay; also, we will be referring to your organizers often during the first portion of the semester. Note: Take advantage of the minimal instructions given for these assignments to begin to develop an individual and personal style for analyzing material.

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**ASSIGNMENT #2:** Analyzing arguments: (**Note: It is important that you begin to construct graphic organizers to analyze text.**) Use the chart template or construct your own chart to analyze the details of the various arguments to determine how the author manipulates readers to accept Ishmael's logical argument.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Ishmael/Quinn's Argument	Pg #	Student's Response	Pg #	Student's Argument	Pg #	Ishmael/Quinn's Response	Pg #

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**ASSIGNMENT #3:** Construct your own graphic organizer or use the template of the sample to compare the specific characteristics of the “**TAKER**” and “**LEAVER**”.

TAKER	LEAVER

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**ASSIGNMENT #4:** Write an 800-1000 word essay (approx. 3 to 3 ½ pages) in which you construct an argument in which you, first, identify yourself as a “Taker” or a “Leaver” and argue for or against Quinn’s logic. ***Be sure to include evidence from to support your points the novel and point out any of Quinn’s arguments that appear to be illogical to you.***

The essay is intended for diagnostic assessment to determine the skill level at which you currently produce written evaluations. The following categories of your essay will be assessed.

### **Introductory Paragraph and Thesis Statement**

Formulates a position on the issue in a clearly stated and thought-provoking thesis.

### **Relates discussions to the time period of the novel**

All aspects of the topic are discussed in relation to the time period of the novel.

### **Independent Thinking**

All aspects of the topic reflect independent thinking; no story summaries

### **Use of specific examples**

Student uses specific examples from the novel to support all discussions.

### **Grammar and Mechanics**

Few or no punctuation errors in the essay.

### **Writing Style/Paragraph & Sentence Structure**

Essay includes appropriately structured paragraphs, correct sentence structure, complete sentences, and a concluding paragraph.

### **Organization**

Very well organized; ideas presented in a logical sequence with clear transitions.

### **Neatness and Appearance (set-up instructions) have been followed.**

The essay is neat and very well- organized. All instructions related to headings, fonts, and margins