

Kartalian

Research Paper Requirements and Topics on Kazuo Ishiguro's *A Pale View of Hills*

- PROPOSAL, THESIS PARAGRAPH AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:
- ROUGH DRAFTS:
- FINAL DRAFTS:

- All assignments must be handed in at the beginning of the class period on which they are due.
- The research paper will be deducted 10% per each calendar day that it is late.
- There is no make up for the assignments due . You will lose all 20 points if the assignments are late or not handed in at all.
- You will lose 5 points per calendar day that your rough draft is late. It is worth a total of 30 points.

Topics:

- 1) As readers, we are always judging the representation of truth and reality in a text. Thus, the understanding of “how a story is told” is just as important as asking “what is the story?” Ishiguro uses the first person point-of-view to narrate *A Pale View of Hills* through Etsuko’s eyes. How do her perceptions influence the ways in which the characters are portrayed? Is she a reliable narrator? Why? Why not? What is Etsuko’s credibility, and is it altered in certain instances or through certain situations that she has experienced? Remember . . . it was Ishiguro who observed, “Memory, I realize, can be an unreliable thing.”
- 2) Ishiguro is certainly an author who has skillfully captured the conflict between two worlds – old and new, modern and traditional, young and old, female and male, Japanese and American, East and West, etc. Discuss the ways he has juxtaposed two of these opposing worlds to create the dynamic in his story telling. How has this influenced his narration?
- 3) Discuss Ishiguro’s writing techniques. The most notable backdrops, including the bombing in Nagasaki, are barely touched upon or mentioned only by innuendo. How has Ishiguro’s writing style influenced the ways in which the story unfolds? Does this subtle power to often suggest, rather than state, beautifully arouse creative and individual responses for each reader? Or, does it throw confusion into a tale already perplexing through its narrative techniques?
- 4) Choose any character and discuss their development through the text. Feel free to think beyond the ordinary terms of “character.” While you may choose to discuss any person or persons, also think about other, intangible, “characters” (or symbols/themes) in the novel. The loss of culture? The shadow of one’s past? Alienation? Guilt? Deception? How have these “characters” unfolded through the text and influenced our understanding as readers?

“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost . . . Now put the foundations under them.” ~ Henry David Thoreau

Good luck!!! LK