

North Haven High School, Summer 2017

Summer Reading for All Seniors

(unless you are in AP or World Literature)

L2/L3: *The Color of Water* by James McBride

L3: *A Pale View of Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Directions:

You are asked to READ and take notes on the Notice and Note Signposts bookmark which follows. If you are an L3 student you will need to complete the bookmark for both novels. Any notes found to have been influenced by unattributed outside sources, such as Internet websites like SparkNotes.com, will automatically receive a zero.

The Color of Water:

"I thought it would be easier if we were just one color, black or white. I didn't want to be white. My siblings had already instilled the notion of black pride in me. I would have preferred that Mommy were black. Now, as a grown man, I feel privileged to have come from two worlds."

James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful book.

The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman with "dark eyes full of pep and fire," herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain.

Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success. *The Color of Water* is a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.

A Pale View of Hills

In his, highly acclaimed debut, *A PALE VIEW OF HILLS*, Kazuo Ishiguro tells the story of Etsuko, a Japanese woman now living alone in England, dwelling on the recent suicide of her daughter. Retreating into the past, she finds herself reliving one particular hot summer in Nagasaki, when she and her friends struggled to rebuild their lives after the WW II. But then as she recalls her strange friendship with Sachiko - a wealthy woman reduced to vagrancy - the memories take on a disturbing cast.

Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark	Notice & Note <i>Signposts</i> Bookmark
Name _____ Book _____	<i>Record page numbers and brief responses to the signposts you see. Try to find two good examples for each signpost.</i>
<i>Signpost Descriptions</i>	
<i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i> When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements STOP and ask, "Why is the character doing that?"	<i>Contrasts and Contradictions</i>
<i>AHA Moment</i> When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something STOP and ask yourself, "How might this change things?"	<i>AHA Moment</i>
<i>Tough Questions</i> When a character asks him or herself a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?"	<i>Tough Questions</i>
<i>Words of the Wiser</i> When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, STOP and ask, "What's the point of the lesson and how might it affect the character?"	<i>Words of the Wiser</i>
<i>Again & Again</i> When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, STOP and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening over and over again?"	<i>Again & Again</i>
<i>Memory Moment</i> When an author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask yourself, "Why or how might this memory be important?"	<i>Memory Moment</i>

