

English 20 IB *God of Small Things* Prose Commentary/Analysis of a Key Passage - Optional Alternate Assignment to Commentary on Ru

Date Due:

Objectives:

- To complete an in-depth exploration of a selected passage from the novel, *The God of Small Things*.
- To examine important themes and motifs within the novel as well as the effect of Arundhati Roy's stylistic choices.
- To practice organizing ideas and presenting them in the format of a commentary. These skills are extremely important in English 30 IB.

Guidelines:

Written commentary

1. Select a passage of approximately 40 lines from *The God of Small Things* to explore in detail. You may use one of the suggestions from the attached page or your own choice.
2. Prepare point form notes on various aspects of interest in the passage.
3. Paying particular attention to the effect of the various techniques and ideas you find in the passage (using effect statements as appropriate), write a formal commentary of approximately 800 words.
4. Double space your commentary in Times New Roman 12 font, remember to include your name and word count, and submit in the appropriate folder in Google Classroom.

Evaluation:

For this assignment, I will be using the ELA 20-1 Personal Response to Texts Rubric.

God of Small Things Potential Passages for Commentaries

1. Page 3-4 --How does Roy create atmosphere in this extract?
2. Page 19-20
3. Page 32-3
4. Page 43-4 –What do you find interesting about Roy’s presentation of Ammu and her situation in this extract? (Discuss marriage as a theme in the rest of the novel.)
5. Page 47-9 –Discuss the presentation of Pappachi in this extract. (Go on to explore the importance of Pappachi’s frustration to the rest of the novel.)
6. Page 51-2
7. Page 88-9 –Explore the way Roy presents the relationship between Estha and Rahel in this extract. (Go on to discuss the importance of this relationship to the rest of the novel.)
8. Page 98-9 –Look closely at the way Roy portrays Estha’s confusion and vulnerability in this extract. (Go on to discuss the importance of the incident with the Orangedrink Lemondrink man in the novel.)
9. Page 106-7 –Explore the way Roy presents the conflict between mother and daughter in this extract. (Discuss how this key point goes on to affect Rahel in the rest of the novel.)
10. Page 118-19
11. Page 119-20
12. Page 135
13. Page 143-4
14. Page 167-8
15. Page 181-2
16. Page 207-8
17. Page 212-14
18. Page 252-3
19. Page 273-4
20. Page 292-3
21. Page 295
22. Page 319
23. Your choice

ENGLISH 20 IB
THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS INTERACTIVE NOTES ASSIGNMENT

Date Due: _____ **Name:** _____ **Class:** _____

OBJECTIVES:

- To complete an in-depth exploration of selected passages from the novel, *The God of Small Things*
- To examine an important theme, motif, character, or aspect of narration
- To practice organizing quotations and ideas related to a single aspect

GUIDELINES:

As you are reading the novel, *The God of Small Things*, you will complete a set of interactive notes that focus on a single literary aspect. To make this simpler, you will use a format that is already familiar from world literature class, the grid of evidence.

- Set up the page with 3 columns.
 - Column 1: Quotations; Column 2: Comments; Column 3: Analysis.
- Select one of the following topics and use it as the title of your grid.
 - Returns
 - Language play
 - Post-colonial concerns
 - Globalism
 - Caste (and Race)
 - History
 - Form, Structure, Architecture (may include structure of the novel)
 - Storytelling, (possibly including Kathakali dance stories)
 - Class, Marxism, Workers' Rights, Oppression
 - Intertextuality
 - Family/Twins
 - Love Laws, Love and Sex
 - Time
 - Gender issues
 - Pappachi's Moth
 - Betrayals
 - Silence
 - Heart of Darkness
 - Select a character, noting key moments in that character's development
 - Select two characters, and note key moments in the development of their relationship
- Include a minimum of 10 quotations from the novel. These may be as short as a single line or as long as an entire 40-line passage appropriate for a commentary. (Later, you will be asked to select a passage to use for a written commentary, so this may help you in selecting one.)
- For each quotation, write a few sentences explaining the significance of this quotation in relation to the topic.
- After writing all 10+ quotations and comments, fill in the analysis column. This column should include a number of points delineating the discoveries you have made about this topic through paying attention to it throughout the novel. What is significant about it as a thread tying together parts of the novel? What do you think Roy may be implying by the way she uses or includes this?

EVALUATION:

The grid will be evaluated for its demonstration of the qualities useful for development of an essay discussion as follows:

- Quotations: aptly chosen for relationship to topic, carefully copied and cited, representative of entire novel, inclusive of most pertinent references (no significant omissions)
- Comments: directly relate to quotations, clearly explain significance of applicable quotations, reflect personal voice and independent thought, detailed discussion
- Analysis: explains significance of the chosen aspect, shows links among quotations, demonstrates close reading and careful consideration, insightful, provides potential basis for an essay

Discussion Questions for God of Small Things

1. Discuss ways in which The God of Small Things explores postcolonialism.
2. Discuss the motif of Pappachi's moth.
3. Discuss the motif of the History House.
4. Discuss the significance of Estha's encounter with the Orangedrink Lemondrink Man.
5. How is Baby Kochamma an important character in the novel?
6. What is the relevance of the relationship between Baby Kochamma and Kochu Maria?
7. Who or what is the God of Small Things?
8. The title of the first chapter is Paradise Pickles and Preserves. Why is this relevant?
9. How is setting important to this novel?
10. Discuss your thoughts and impressions of Ammu.
11. Discuss the characterization of Velutha and his significance in this novel.
12. How is communism important to this novel?
13. Discuss the impact of Sophie Mol's arrival.
14. Various relationships between couples feature prominently in the novel. Discuss one or more of these relationships.
15. How are Pappachi and Mammachi important to the novel?
16. Discuss the impact of a scene that is described from the perspective of Rahel as a child, e.g. Sophie Mol's funeral.

17. What is interesting or unique about Roy's writing style?
18. Rahel and Estha are described as "a rare breed of Siamese twins, physically separate but with joint identities." (5) What is the importance of the twins' relationship?
19. How are "Edges, Borders, Boundaries, Brinks and Limits" important in this novel?
20. What are the Love Laws? What happens to those who break the law?
21. Discuss how caste is relevant in the novel.
22. How is religion important in the society of the novel?
23. Who do you find the most admirable character(s) in the novel and why?
24. Who do you find the least admirable character(s) in the novel and why?
25. Discuss Estha's silence. How does it come about and why?
26. How did the writer's point of view affect your experience as a reader?
27. Discuss your impressions of Chacko. What does his presence contribute to the family and to the novel?
28. What do you believe is the central event of this novel? How does the plot revolve around this?
29. In what ways is Velutha a victim of society?
30. In what ways can this be seen as a feminist novel?
31. How is this novel exploring issues of social justice?

32. Discuss the motif of violence or threat of violence as it manifests in this novel.

33. What is the significance of the History House in the novel?