

First Written Assignment

Please write 600 words in answer to this question:

What do you find interesting about the ways in which the writers of Never Let Me Go and one other novel of your choice begin their narratives?

The best approach to this is probably to look at the pointers we gave you over the summer.

- **Narrator:** is the story narrated in the first person ('I')? Is the narrator a character in the story? Is it told in the third person (he, she), by an unnamed storyteller? What is the effect of this?
- **Time:** does the narrator start at the beginning of the story and move forward from there? Is the narrator looking back on events which have already happened? Is the story already underway from the first page? Does the narrator tell you, at the beginning, what will happen later?
- **Setting:** where is the opening of the story set? What is interesting about the culture of this place? What time of day is it? What's the weather like? What mood does the setting put you in? How does this fit with the way the text ends?
- **Message:** decide what you think the text is mainly about and see if you can find evidence of this from the opening.
- **Genre:** what kind of story is it? Crime thriller? Love story? War drama? What evidence do you have for this from the first few pages?

The aim here is not to simply retell the story, but to focus on *how* the writer is telling the story (narrative method). You might pick three of these five aspects and write three 200 word sections, comparing the texts in each section. Try to keep each paragraph focused on the aspect of story-telling that you want to talk about, rather than moving around different aspects too much. Try to be consistently comparative too, contrasting and linking *Never Let Me Go* with your other text. Do also quote from both texts regularly, to support the points you are making. Please try to embed the quotations in your sentences, rather than having them separated out.

e.g.

Kazuo Ishiguro begins the narrative at the end of Kathy's story, when she is soon to become a donor. He chooses to have her looking back and recalling the past, as seen when she says... (quote). This leads to several flashbacks, such as her recollection of... (quote). By contrast, Jane Austen tells the story in *Pride and Prejudice* in chronological order. She begins her narrative in the present moment, introducing us to society at the time... (quote)... and then events begin to unfold in chronological order... (quote)... etc.

Assessment

We will give you a comment on this piece based on the following:-

- how closely you focus on *how* the story is told (rather than the retelling the plot)
- how comparative you are
- whether you have used relevant evidence from the text
- how smoothly you work quotations in
- how clearly you write and set out your points

A BRIEF COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FIRST CHAPTERS OF N.L.M.G AND FRANKENSTEIN. (approx. 1000 words). Introductory assignment.

Discuss the similarities/differences between both chapters bearing in mind that these are introductions to two different stories which share some similar themes and interests although separated by over 200 years. How do you assess each novel's ability to engage the reader, set the scene, introduce characters etc?

Try to limit your discussion to **3 aspects** in three extended comparative paragraphs. I. e narrative technique, form, style, imagery, characterisation, setting, genre, suggested themes or interests.

Include a brief introductory paragraph where you clearly compare any similarities or differences.

Make sure you follow p.e.e structure and use very brief quotation to support your points.

NOTES