

English 9H
Summer Reading Assignment
2022-2023

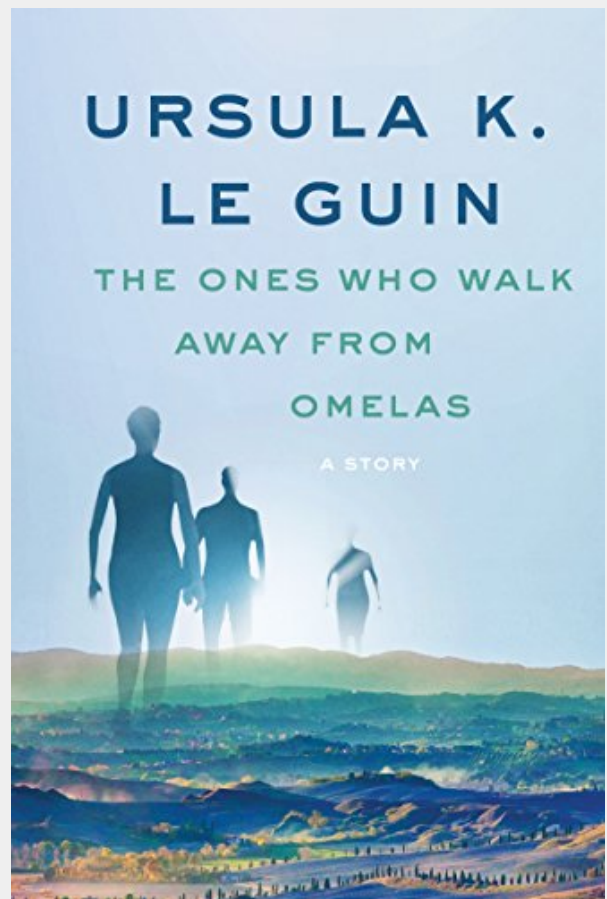
Background: Throughout the year, you will be introduced to authors with diverse beliefs, perspectives, and nationalities. Each author writes for their own purpose, yet in all cases their works provide readers with a wider view of the world. Through their stories you will recognize our inherent similarities and differences, and emerge convinced that we can relate to life experiences and feelings that we have not personally undergone. Your summer reading assignment was designed with these ideas in mind.

The Assigned Summer Reading

In the second half of your summer vacation, begin by reading Ursula K. Le Guin's short story "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas". I have linked the story for you [here](#), but it is also readily available if you search "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas PDF" using the Google search engine.

After reading the story, compose **an outline** for a thesis-based essay which responds to **one** of the following questions, using the short story as support:

1. How does Le Guin use literary devices to communicate the story's central themes? What central message(s) emerge from this story, and is Le Guin successful in conveying these messages?
2. Within the world Le Guin describes, the abandoned child is completely dehumanized, to the point of being referred to as "it". Looking at the story as a whole, however, the child is actually the only character who stands out as any kind of individual. Analyze the significance of this in terms of the story's central themes.
3. Thinking about the story's themes and symbolism, discuss the significance of the fact that those who leave Omelas do so "alone."
4. Le Guin writes at one point that "Happiness is based on a just discrimination of what is necessary, what is neither necessary nor destructive, and what is destructive." Discuss this statement in terms of the story's overall treatment of happiness. Do you think it ultimately holds true? Why or why not?



"Would you accept happiness knowing full well that it came at the cost of extreme suffering of another? And once that cost is revealed, would you understand those who chose to walk away? 'The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas' is an essential piece of short fiction that resonates across all time and asks us what horrors we will overlook and allow in order to satisfy the masses." -- USA Today

Summer Assignment Details:

DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS:

- ❑ **Essay outline.** You may format your outline in a way that will most effectively guide you throughout the development of your essay. Here is a [template](#), but you are welcome to use your own.

Regardless of how you format your outline, it should include:

- A clear and argumentative claim
- Topic sentences that will determine the focus of your body paragraphs
- Textual support (in the form of direct quotations) that you will use to further develop/support your claim

DUE BY THE END OF WEEK 2 (COMPLETED IN CLASS):

- ❑ **Thesis-based Essay.** Prior to your first essay submission, you will confer with me individually. We will take a thorough look at your outline, along with the essay rubric, in order to recognize various strengths and areas for improvement.

Your essay will be written **in class** at the end of the second week of school, after you have engaged in a Socratic seminar. The essay must be guided by a strong and original claim/thesis that is expressed using clear and direct language. The structure of your essay's body will be determined by topic sentences, which define the focus of body paragraphs while tying them back to your claim/thesis. Finally, you will make use of meaningful and relevant textual support from the short story, including direct quotations, and a conclusion that explores the broader implications of your topic.

All words and ideas that are not your own, be they direct quotations or paraphrases, must be properly cited using the MLA format. Include a Works Cited page. Should you have any questions regarding what to cite and how to cite it, consult [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#).

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in August. **Once I receive my class rosters, I will be adding you to our Google classroom page, where I will also upload these materials** (in case the links embedded within this document do not work). If you have any questions or concerns regarding the summer assignment for English 9H, you may contact me via the email provided below. I will respond at my earliest convenience.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Ms. Monico

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