

English

- World Literature -



(above: Caribbean Art, by Elisa Talentino)

Unit on “Annie John” by Jamaica Kincaid
Ms. Bella, English Language Arts, World Literature:
Freshmen & Sophomores
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[Zoom Link \(Click Here\)](#)

Overview

Annie John has been a favorite of mine to teach.. It is accessible and relatable, yet its complexity balances worthy deep analysis and discussion. While Annie’s rebellion and search for her own identity are universal experiences to which all of you can (or will) relate to, her story of growing up in a Caribbean island and in a colony of England, will give you new perspectives on how the events of your history books affect an individual's lives.

“The thing I’ve learned is that all of life in every stage is hard to live.”
—Jamaica Kincaid

Themes found throughout the book:
Race & Racism, Death, Obeah and Spiritual Beliefs, Love, Puberty,
Colonial Education, and . . .
water.

Guiding Question I:

Is there such a thing as a completely true story? Is there such a thing as a completely fictional story?

Guiding Question II:

What is “stream of consciousness” style? To what effect is it used in the novel? Have you personally written in the context of “stream of consciousness?” If so, to what capacity?

*Stream-of-consciousness is a style of writing, or technique, in which the speaker’s thoughts or speech seem to flow out on the page in the way that thoughts race through our own minds.

Lessons & Weekly Work

_____ **Week One: Letter to My Future Self, Professional E-mail (8/24 - 8/28)**

_____ **Week Two: E-mail, Summer Reading Letter *or* Reaction (8/31 - 9/4)**

_____ **Week Three: Chapters 2 & 3 (9/8 - 9/11)**

_____ **Week Four: Chapter 4 (9/14 - 9/18)**

_____ **Week Five: Chapter 5 (9/21 - 9/25)**

_____ **Week Six: Chapter 6 (9/28 - 10/2)**

_____ **Week Seven: Chapter 7 (10/5 - 10/9)**

_____ **Week Eight : Chapter 8 (10/13 - 10/16)**

_____ **Week Nine : Final Project (10/19 - 10/23)**

DQ Assignment Due Dates

[Discussion Questions \(Click Here\)](#)

- I. Only choose ONE (1) DQ question per week (per chapter).
- I. Please find the DQ's on the attached doc above
- II. When there are multiple DQ's: Select the DQ you feel that you may respond to best and with a sound reflection. DQ's are separate from "Questions on Chapters"
- III. Responses are a minimum of 5-7 sentences for weekly DQ
- IV. Any DQ's received with less than the minimum requirements above, simply will not be accepted.

_____ **DQ 1:** Due by September 4th

_____ **DQ 5:** Due by October 2nd

_____ **DQ 2:** Due by September 11th

_____ **DQ 6:** Due by October 9th

_____ **DQ 3:** Due by September 18th

_____ **DQ 7:** Due by October 16th

_____ **DQ 4:** Due by September 25th

_____ **DQ 8:** Due by October 23rd

IW & Quizzes

(Breakdown of Grading Scale)

_____ **Daily Writing Warm-Ups** (10 pts each)

_____ **DQ's** (25 pts each)

_____ **IW's** (25 pts each)

_____ **Vocab Quiz I** (50 pts)

_____ **Summer Reading Project** (50 pts each)

_____ **Vocab Quiz II** (50 pts)

_____ **Weekly Participation** (10 pts)

_____ **Final Project** (75 pts)

READINGS

- I. ["Annie John" By Jamaica Kincaid PDF \(CLICK HERE\)](#)
 - A. Use for all DQ's
- II. [SUMMER READING LIST \(CLICK HERE\)](#)
 - A. (Begins October 1st - 2nd)
- III. [Newsela Articles](#)
 - A. 2 Per Quarter (Begins September 21st)

FINAL PROJECT

Final Assessment

- I. Choose only **one (1)** of the following Essay Prompts
- II. Write a Minimum of Two (2) pages - Response Paper (Honors 4 - 5)
- III. Typed, Double-Spaced, Fonts allowed : Times New Roman or Arial

Essay Prompts

1. **Death.** Discuss Annie's childhood fascination with death. What are the real-life deaths in the novel? What are some of the symbolic "deaths" in Annie's life? Why is death so prevalent in this novel about growing up?
2. **Race and Racism.** In an interview with *Mother Jones*, Kincaid said of her earlier life, "I didn't really understand racism because I grew up in an all-black society, so I didn't see how it was possible not to like me!" When and how does Annie experience racism? How does the novel as a whole demonstrate an "understanding" of racism? What points does Kincaid seem to be making in the book as a whole about race and racism? Although Annie believes that her ancestors would have behaved differently if they had gone from Africa to Europe, Kincaid has said, "I wish everyone would stay where they come from because when we go to other places, you eventually exploit." Does the book as a whole support Annie's notion that her ancestors are different? Why or why not?
3. **Obeah and Spiritual Beliefs.** How does Kincaid portray the practices of Obeah in the novel? Does she seem to believe in them? Why or why not? What points do you think she is making in the book as a whole by including the details about Obeah practices? Ma Chess and Annie's father keep "out of each other's way" because, as Annie says, "they didn't see the world in the same way." Discuss the different ways of seeing the world in the book and how people act when they disagree.

4. **Love.** When she was younger, Annie believed that the love between a mother and her child is the most powerful love. She says of her father, “I loved him so much and wished that I had a mother to give him, for, no matter how much my own mother loved him, it could never be the same.” Is Annie mistaken in this belief? Does the book seem to support this idea? Why or why not? What other kinds of love are present in the book? What does Annie learn from friends, neighbors, or other relationships she observes?
5. **Puberty.** How does the book portray puberty? What are some of the changes that Annie goes through? What is the experience like for her?
6. **Colonial Education.** In the interview published in the *Mississippi Review*, Kincaid said, “There are some great things the Europeans had when they were among us, when they were ruling us, and one of them was education.” Does the novel as a whole agree with this statement? Why or why not?
7. **Water.** Discuss the symbolic significance of water in the book. Some key scenes in the book that include water are when Annie is bathing with her mother, the essay that she writes for her first day of school, the long rain, and the final paragraph of the book. What do you notice when you examine those sections? What are some possible symbolic significance of water in the novel?
8. **Deception.** Discuss the various ways that Annie and her mother deceive one another. When and why do they lie? How do they react when they learn they have been lied to? Does Annie lie to the reader? Why or why not? What are some reasons in the book for why people lie to themselves and others?
9. **Paradise and Paradise Lost.** Annie says, “It was in such a paradise that I lived.” Discuss the connotations of the word “paradise.” Is paradise a real thing? Is it lasting? What meaning is added to this statement by the allusion to Adam and Eve in the Bible? In chapter 5, Annie is given *Paradise Lost* to copy as a punishment and in chapter 6, she sees herself as looking like the young Lucifer. In fact, Kincaid herself has said, “I read *Paradise Lost* at a very young age and I did identify completely with Satan.” How does Annie’s story parallel that of Lucifer? Why does she relate to him? Why does she feel so much affinity to these stories in the Bible?
10. **Literary Allusions.** Both Annie and Kincaid’s favorite book is *Jane Eyre*, which Kincaid has described as “very much a description of the powerful and the powerless.” In the novel, Jane famously says, “I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will, which I now exert to leave you.” Why do you think that Annie loves this book so much? Spend some time learning more about the themes and plot of the book. What parallels can you find between Annie’s story and Jane’s? Why is it surprising that this book is so important to Kincaid or Annie?
11. **Dreams.** Annie mentions dreams a few times in the book. What patterns or trends do you notice among those dreams? How does this correlate to the entirety of the novel?

Extension Work

(ONLY choose ET work once completed with: Weekly DQ's, Readings, and Warm-Ups.

Week 1&2:

- A. Watch [Reader, It's Jane Eyre](#), a 13-minute Crash Course video on *Jane Eyre* and then spend some time reacting to the video and discussing why the novel might have been a favorite of Annie and Jamaica Kincaid both. The video also goes into the structure of the Bildungsroman.

Week 3&4:

- B. Complete *The Villain Tells the Story* creative writing assignment (See Ms. Bella)

Week 5&6:

- C. After reading and discussing "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid, you may write "Mother" in the point of view of Annie. Or, write an imitation of the story *in the voice* of an authority figure from your own life.

Week 7&8:

- D. Conduct a graded discussion based on one or more of the Post-Reading Discussion Questions

Addendum: Detailed Class Policy See Updated:

Distance Learning Norms

Expectations:

- Respect the virtual classroom, others and yourself. Model GRACE and COURTESY.
 - Be on time and prepared
 - No lying down
 - Wearing appropriate attire on Zoom
- Raise the "blue hand" under participants on Zoom, and wait to be called on before talking
 - Maintain your Zoom on "mute" until it is your turn to speak
 - Listen attentively to others respectfully
 - Electronics must be used appropriately and wisely
- You will be given 5 minutes to login to class via Zoom or will be marked Tardy Unexcused
- You must login to class via Zoom NO LATER than 30 minutes after the start time or you may be locked out of the meeting and unable to join

Due Date Extensions - NEW 2020 - 2021

Due date extension requests will only be considered if a student asks 24 hours ahead of the due date in writing (via e-mail)

-Time Management-

Start of Quarter 1: August 24th

Family Conferences: August 24th - 28th

(12:00 PM Dismissal)

Labor Day: September 7th

(NO SCHOOL!)

Indigenous People Day: October 12th

(NO SCHOOL!)

End of Quarter 1: October 23rd

Staff Development: October 26th

(NO SCHOOL!)

Silver Oak High School
A Public Montessori Charter

August 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

12-19 Staff Development

20 School Begins

24-28 Family Conferences 12pm Dismissal

September 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September

7 **Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)**

October 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October

12 **Indigenous People Day (NO SCHOOL)**

23 End of Quarter 1

26 **Staff Development (NO SCHOOL)**