

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
2021-2022 Summer Reading
AP English Literature & Composition

Rising seniors entering the AP English Literature and Composition course are to read closely and annotate *The Fifth Child* by Doris Lessing (ISBN: 978-0679721826) **Guidelines:**

Close Reading

- Look for *patterns, repetitions (motifs), and recurring elements; unusual syntax and diction; figurative language and archetypal elements; and passages that strike you as highly significant.*

Annotating

This is essential for close and critical reading of texts in preparation for class discussions, writing assignments, analyses, research, and exam responses. Digital texts will be held to these same expectations, so you may want to reconsider getting a paperback.

- *Highlight* critical elements of the plot, so you have a condensed version of the novel to review when studying. This way you can skim your highlights to refresh your memory of what happened instead of the whole novel, or summary websites that leave out key details.
- *Underline* phrases you find pithy, represent repetitive themes or images (motifs), and/or reveal figurative language
- *Circle* words you don't recognize
- *Bracket* sentences and passages that stand out, develop an argument, or make a point
- *Connect* important ideas, words, phrases with *arrows*
- *Label* themes, repeated symbols, etc. in margins
- Your book may be checked for these annotations in the first week. Bring it to class, and be ready for that in addition to discussion on the novel.

Assignment:

There will be a test and an in class essay within the first week of school.