Summer Holiday Reading 2021

Fly Me Home

For our reading classes together over the summer holidays, we will be exploring each book in three lessons, with the first offering a general overview, the second delving into the stylistic and narrative elements of the writing and the final lesson offering a closer, more thorough examination of the text itself through the use of close textual analysis and with particular attention paid to literary techniques and structural devices. These lessons are designed to help the students develop new frameworks through which to read and understand literature, equipping them with the vocabulary with which to discuss themes, genre and morals.

*Lesson 1:* **Introduction to *Fly Me Home***

In lesson 1 we will be starting our introductory work on *Fly Me Home,* thinking about the central ideas and context of the novel. We will be looking at the key theme of immigration, following stories and testimonies of children from real-life immigrant families and comparing these stories to the experiences of Leelu and Tiber, considering why the author may have chosen to write a story such as this one. We will look at some of the trials and tribulations that people who have immigrated often face, thinking about why tolerance and inclusion are so important. We will delve deeper into the idea of what makes a home a home, thinking about how this changes and morphs over the course of the novel. The class will also be given time to ask any questions they had about the book and to give their opinions on how the story, characters and themes made them feel.

*Lesson 2:* **Exploring Style and Narrative**

In lesson 2 we will dive further into the novel, thinking about the symbols in the book and how Polly Ho-Yen weaves magic into her book, touching on the genre of magical realism. We will discuss the importance of Leelu’s small treasures and what they communicate in the book. We will also develop a framework of themes to work with, identifying where and how Ho-Yen uses thematic ideas to make the reader relate to and empathise with the characters, and thinking about the key ideas of family, difference and home. Finally, we will discuss characterisation, thinking about the difference in experience of Leelu and Tiber and asking what this may tell us about how difficult it can be to have to leave everything behind and move to another country with only a few of your family. We will debate about Leelu’s relationships that she forms, thinking about which is most valuable by the end.

*Lesson 3:* **Close Textual Analysis**

In lesson 3 we will be focusing on developing the students’ analytical skills, looking at closely analysing the text of the novel. The class will be asked to discuss the name of the book, thinking of their own alternative titles for it and weaving their creative reimagining of the title in with what they think the moral of the story is. We will then pay attention to the way Ho-Yen uses figurative language, analysing some examples and discussing how this book acts as a symbolic narrative of inclusion, exclusion and change. The students will have a chance to come up with their own figurative language and will work together in creating an outline for a plot about someone who finds themselves treated as an outsider. They will have to work with the thematic framework Ho-Yen creates in the book whilst also coming up with their own interpretation, analysing her work in order to broaden their own understanding of writing, reading and analysing literature.