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**PDP-IB British Literature SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**  
**Due: First Full Day of School – Monday, Aug. 21, 2017**  
**60 points**

For your summer reading assignment, you will need to purchase and read the novel, *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave.

- ✓ Below is your assignment. This assignment **must be typed in Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1” margins.**
- ✓ Number each category (i.e. Setting ,characters, etc) and cite specific evidence from the text.
- ✓ This assignment will be worth **60 points** and will be **due on the 1st day of class.**
- ✓ *Please note that you are responsible for purchasing your own copy of the novel.*

**1. Setting**

- Define setting. Briefly describe and discuss the setting (place and time) of the novel. Include shifts that occur throughout, so there may be more than one. Be sure to support it with evidence from the novel.

**2. Characters**

- Select your top three (3) characters from the novel. Thoroughly discuss each one by describing how they look, telling about their role in the story, and one example of conflict each character faced. Be sure to support this with evidence from the novel

**3. Key Moments**

- On separate, attached pages, summarize **eight** (8) key episodes or events in the novel (conflict, epiphany, turning point, or moment of important insight). List them in the order they appear in the novel. For each, summarize the episode/event, explain the significance to the meaning of the work as a whole, and provide **one** (1) quotation that best illustrates this moment.

**4. Theme\***

- *Little Bee* has several examples of themes (central message). Think about a theme that could represent the novel. Once you have selected your theme discuss it in detail telling why it can be considered as a theme for the novel. Response should be one paragraph or more supported with information from the text.

**5. Reading Journal**

- For each of the chapters, you will need to write journal entries. Each chapter needs to have at least four (4) comments/entries. At least two (2) of these entries need to be made while you are reading. Label these entries with the page number that inspires the thought. The others can be made after you are finished with the chapter. These entries should be labeled as “overall.”
- Your notes/entries should NOT center on what happens in the story, but on deeper connections or thoughts, such as:
  - Ideas that the reading inspires or makes you think of
  - Connections that you can make to other books, stories, or culture

- Thoughts regarding what is happening to the character(s) - their actions, their words, their emotions
- Ideas regarding the themes of the book and what the author's message could be
- The language – the tone, the meanings, the way the author writes
- Culture connections – thoughts on how the play comments on society,
- Patterns in either the language or the concepts (or both)

## 6. Summary

- Write a summary of *Little Bee* in your OWN WORDS. This response should consist of three paragraphs.

### \* Help for Theme

Themes help readers answer the question: What does a story present about the universal human experience?

Every story, either short or in novel format, has at least one theme. A theme is a revelation shown through the characters' struggles and triumphs about life. A theme in a short story may occasionally be revealed in a direct sentence through a character's thought or declaration, but most often, a reader must infer the theme of the work after considerable thought. A theme or themes in longer works are never stated as one or two words-these identifying words are theme categories or theme subjects, such as "love" or "fear" or "identification." Themes, when analyzed, must be written in statement format (one or two sentences) that explain the universal human experience-experiences commonly shared by humans regardless of race, nationality, or time period.

How does a reader infer a theme from a story? Always ask questions as you read:

- Why is this situation included in the story?
- What is the main idea about this situation? Does it show fear? Or love? Or change? Or strength?
- Is this a central conflict throughout the story or in just one situation?
- Why is this character important? Why is this symbol important?
- What are the changes from the beginning to the end of the story?

After you have finished reading and have answered the above questions as you have read, ask yourself what are the main ideas or categories found within the story.

### \*\*Help for Quote Analysis

So, what is this analysis "thing"?

When you analyze you break down the context and examine methodically and in detail the structure of something, typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation. You are making connections to the meaning of the quotation: why is it there? What comes before and after the quotation? How does it further the meaning of the story?

The quote analysis should be written in present tense; this is called "literary present tense" because literature never changes once it has been printed. Present tense is used when the action is NOW or when it is a truth (President Washington is the first President of the United States) or when writing about literature that always remains the same or true. In the explanation are blended quotations-these will be your analysis "friend" once you have learned the proper format. Such fun awaits!