

Contemporary World Literature 2016
“Interpreter of Maladies” Final Assessment

Jhumpa Lahiri’s text Interpreter of Maladies is a collection of stories that captures the complexity of the human experience and, in particular, the ways that relationships, adjustment, and honesty (to name a few major ideas) shape lives. For your final assessment, you will explore the universality of Lahiri’s storytelling -- the ways that her stories, themes, and messages in Interpreter of Maladies echo your own experience in some way.

Your assignment:

Select 4 stories.

1. For each story, summarize the story and identify the message present, providing textual evidence / quotations from the story (Minimum 200 words)
2. Discuss two ways that Lahiri emphasizes this message through her use of technique. (Minimum 100 words)
3. Explore and reflect on the ways that the message and this story is relevant for you and makes you think more deeply about your own life. (Minimum 300 words)

Point Value: 100 points (25 points / story)

Final Due Date: Wednesday, 3/16

Work Days: Thursday, 3/10, Friday 3/11, and Tuesday, 3/15

Evaluation:

Your assessment will be graded based upon depth of thought, ability to connect to the complex messages present in the stories, and fulfilling assessment requirements. Grammatical correctness, clear sentence structure, smooth transitions, and use of a varied vocabulary will also be evaluated as part of your assessment.

All writing and ideas must come from your own thinking and analysis. Be creative as you make connections to the stories, tell your own stories, and reflect on the ways your own life might be as complex and intriguing as the fictional stories Lahiri has invented.

A Sample Structure / Model for this assignment appears on the reverse side

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SAMPLE STRUCTURE : Do this for 4 different stories.
This is only a model- You need not use the sentence starters listed below!

Story Title : _____

1. Summary and Message (200 words)

The story “The Treatment of Bibi Haldar” is a story about _____.

[include a quick summary of the story that includes basic plot and identifies the message/theme/main idea of the story. Make sure to include textual details / quotations from the story / evidence that support the message you have identified]

2. Technique (100 words)

Lahiri, in “The Treatment of Bibi Haldar,” uses the tonics and cosmetics in Mr. Haldar’s shop as symbols in the story. These symbols represent . . . This emphasizes the theme of the story because.... A second technique Lahiri uses in this story is

[Include a discussion of at least 2 techniques present in the story. Identify the techniques, then explain and discuss how these techniques emphasize the theme / message effectively.]

3. Personal Reflection (300 words)

In “The Treatment of Bibi Haldar,” Bibi experiences. . . I can relate to this story because....(OR) This story resonates with me because.... (OR) When I was younger.... (OR) The theme of _____ that is present in Bibi Haldar is one that I feel strongly about and can understand because...

[Explore and discuss the ways that you can relate your own experience to this story. You may connect direct experiences to the story and discuss the ways that your experience is similar to those of the characters in the story. You also might focus on the ways that the story makes you understand and think about your own experience, thought processes, or even your past, present, or future more deeply.]