

As we've been reading the novel, we've focused on analyzing Ishmael's character and the prevalent themes in the story. As we get close to the end of the story, it's time to put our thoughts to paper in the form of an essay.

You will be working on two potential five paragraph essays – one focusing on Ishmael's character complexity and/or development, OR the other focusing on the message of the story through the lens of the most prevalent theme(s) in the novel.

General Guidelines:

Length: 2.5-4 pages

Standard Formatting:

- 12 Pt. Font/Times New Roman and Double-Spaced
- 1" Margins
- Works Cited Page (MLA)
- In-Text Citations

Turn in: Physical copy in class and digital copy on Turnitin.com (for both rough & final drafts)

Essay 1 – Character Complexity

How does Ishmael's character complexity affect the narrative?

- Choose two of Ishmael's conflicting/contrasting character qualities
- Show how that contrast affects one of the following:
 - Theme
 - Plot

Example Thesis Templates –

The conflict between Ishmael's (Quality 1) and his (Quality 2) illustrates (Theme).

Though Ishmael appears (Quality 1), he often seems (Quality 2), and this tension causes (Plot Development).

Introduction:

- A. Hook
- B. Problem/Topical Question Stated
- C. Transition
- D. Thesis

Body:

I. First Topic Sentence

- A. Evidence and Reasoning 1
- B. Evidence and Reasoning 2
- C. Concluding Sentence and Transition

II. Second Topic Sentence

- A. Evidence and Reasoning 1
- B. Evidence and Reasoning 2
- C. Concluding Sentence and Transition

III. Third Topic Sentence

- A. Evidence and Reasoning 1
- B. Evidence and Reasoning 2
- C. Concluding Sentence and Transition

Closing:

- A. Establish sense of closure or completeness/Convey lingering possibilities of the topic, its larger meaning, and its implications.