

Q#1 Book Project

Reading: You will be reading *The Namesake*, which is a novel that deals with the immigrant experience. *The Namesake* depicts the struggles of Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli, first-generation immigrants from the state of West Bengal to the United States, and their American-born children Gogol and Sonia. The story begins as Ashoke and Ashima leave Calcutta and settle in New York City. The story chronicles Gogol's cross-cultural experiences and his exploration of his Indian heritage, as the story shifts between the United States and India.

Task Directions: As you finish reading the novel, select one of the following projects to complete to demonstrate your knowledge of the book. You may do this assignment with a small group (2-3 people) or independently.

1. Photo Album

In a small group of 2-3, position your group members in places that could be related to the events in the novel, then take a picture! Make sure your photos are not just of people smiling — your pictures need to reveal the events that occur in the novel. See if you can get some props and costumes in your pictures to help clarify who each character is and what is going on. Once you have your pictures, arrange them in a photo album in the order the events occur. Below each photo, write a good caption that explains who the people are and what event is occurring. If you can, try to include the approximate date. The captions should be written from the main character's point of view. The first page inside should have the full name of the character, title of the book and the author's name. You could also include some pertinent information about the character, such as their birth date, age, or where they live.

2. Interview a character from your book

Independently or in a pair, write at least fifteen questions (probably more) that will give the character the opportunity to discuss their thoughts and feelings about their role in the story. Then present your interview by submitting a written format script, recorded video of the actual interview, or perform it live (you can include another group member if your group decides to interview two characters)

3. Book to Movie Comparison

Write an essay comparing the movie version with the book. This option is to be done individually. Here are some questions to consider as you complete the essay:

- Which did you enjoy more – the book or the movie? Why?
- Did the main characters look and act like you expected? Why or why not?
- Did the main setting look like you expected? Why or why not?
- Think about the scenes that the movie changed so that they were different from the book. What scenes do you wish hadn't been changed? What scenes were better because of the change?
- What parts of the book did the movie leave out? What scenes were added to the movie that weren't in the book? Were these changes good or bad, and why?
- What are some other differences between the book and the movie?
- What stayed the same in both the book and the movie?
- Whose point of view do you agree with more - the author of the book or the director of the movie? Why?

4. Pack a Suitcase

Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack? Think carefully, for you will be there for a week, and there is no going back home to get something! Include 10-15 items in the suitcase and be prepared to explain why each is relevant to the book. You may not include normal items that you would take on a trip (i.e. underwear, toothbrush...) All items must be specific to the plot and characters in the novel. To present your suitcase you will submit a written explanation for all of the items in your suitcase to google classroom and a recorded video of the suitcase and explanations, or present them to the class. This option is to be done individually.