



The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading Assignment

Teacher's Name: Mrs. Petro

School Year: 2023 -2024 **Grade Level:** 12

Course No.: 149 **Course Name:** English Literature & Composition

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP/CPA): AP

The Assigned Novel

1. ***Dreaming in Cuban***, By Cristina Garcia (245 Pages) ISBN-13 : 978-0345381439
2. ***Lesser Tragedy of Death (Black Goat)*** by Cristina Garcia ISBN-13 : 978-1936070015

Purpose for Reading

I would like for you to discover why the creative and poignant prose and poetry of a Cuban American novelist should be relevant to female high school students in the twenty-first century. Through Garcia's story you will discover how three generations of Cuban women experienced and responded to the Cuban Revolution and life after the revolution. While this is a work of fiction, Cuban Americans often have a story impacted by the Cuban Revolution. We want to take this work of literature and use it as a launching point within the scope of "food for thought" to wade into current events involving Cuba vis-à-vis the rest of the Western world, especially the United States of America.

Pre-Reading Task

Author and Culture Study: In addition to a general biographical sketch, you will address the areas of Garcia's biography which influence her writings.

Examination of Culture: You will write a brief background section on Cuba, addressing the nation's history and culture. The purpose is for you to develop an understanding of the Cuban people, history, and rich culture prior to reading the novel and poetry by Cuban-born American journalist, Cristina Garcia.

The total composition should be 3-5 pages in length.

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During Reading Task (optional, but highly encouraged)

Following the provided reading schedule, I encourage you to annotate as you read. Stop and jot every once in a while. Consider questions about the story elements; make self to text or text to the world connections as you read. Seek to discover Garcia's use of literary devices. I will have a Google Classroom for the Summer Reading Assignment and I encourage you to engage each other as you read the novel and explore her poetry. I will monitor the classroom throughout the summer and will provide you with guidance if needed.

Post Reading Task

Select two of the four prompts to respond to with properly cited textual evidence to support your response. Your response should be 1-2 pages in length.

1. **Addressing Conflict:** First identify if the conflict and type of conflict in Garcia's novel, *Dreaming in Cuban* is it internal conflict, external conflict, or both. What impact does this conflict have on a specific character and their relationship to another character? How did this particular conflict impact the plot or propel the plot toward the resolution of the story?
2. **Addressing Character:** Select a character, then identify and describe what specific textual details are revealed about a character's perspective and motives.
3. **Addressing Structure:** Explain the function of conflict in Garcia's novel, *Dreaming in Cuban*.
4. **Addressing Setting:** Explain how the intergenerational conflict is intertwined and functions within the setting of Garcia's novel. How does the setting fuel the intergenerational conflict?

Per The Catholic High School of Baltimore's Honor Code, your work must be your own. Any type of academic dishonesty in completing this assignment will result in an automatic failing grade and a referral to the administration for disciplinary action.