



THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

the namesake

a novel by
jhumpa lahiri

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Reading Focus:

Identify how Jhumpa Lahiri's novel *The Namesake* conveys views of ASSIMILATION through the use of **plot, characters, and conflicts**.

Evidence:

- Reading Checks
- Chapter Summaries
- Literary Circles & Socratic Seminar Discussion
- Progress Checks
- Literary Cafe

Big Questions: As you read

- Chapter 1-2 (pp. 1-47): How do Ashoke and Ashima begin to introduce the idea of ASSIMILATION to the reader?
- Chapter 3-5 (48-124): Describe Gogol and the evolution of his relationship to his name throughout these chapters.
- Chapter 6-8 (125-187): How do the new characters and events in these Chapters reveal Lahiri's views on the limits of ASSIMILATION?
- Chapter 8-10 (188-245): Compare Moushumi and Gogol. Describe what brings these characters together and what keeps them apart.
- Chapter 10-12 (246-291): Describe the character arc of the novel's protagonist. How has he changed through the events in the novel? What ideas about assimilation are conveyed through the those changes?

After you read: Use Summary Template to identify main idea and key details.



Single-Paragraph Summary Template:
Expository Writing

Identifying the topic	The <i>article / chapter / website / film</i> titled “ _____ ” _____ “ ... ”	<input type="radio"/> examines <input type="radio"/> addresses <input type="radio"/> introduces <input type="radio"/> supports	<input type="checkbox"/> the idea of... <input type="checkbox"/> the relationship between... <input type="checkbox"/> the importance of.. <input type="checkbox"/> the reasons for...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Introducing the content	The <i>article / chapter / website / film</i> uses / relies / cites ...	<input type="radio"/> facts <input type="radio"/> examples <input type="radio"/> information <input type="radio"/> expert opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> to explain... <input type="checkbox"/> to discuss... <input type="checkbox"/> to describe... <input type="checkbox"/> to support...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Including key details	Another important idea from the <i>article / chapter / website / film ...</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> illustrates that ... <input type="checkbox"/> indicates that ... <input type="checkbox"/> explains why ... <input type="checkbox"/> discusses the ...		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Including key details	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="radio"/> is a key detail <input type="radio"/> is a powerful example <input type="radio"/> is essential information	<input type="checkbox"/> that illustrates ... <input type="checkbox"/> that explains ... <input type="checkbox"/> that proves <input type="checkbox"/> because ...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Conclusion	The examples / details / information / ideas found in the <i>article / chapter / website / film</i>	<input type="radio"/> support <input type="radio"/> confirm <input type="radio"/> clarify <input type="radio"/> reinforce <input type="radio"/> emphasize	<input type="checkbox"/> the value of ... <input type="checkbox"/> the need for... <input type="checkbox"/> the link between... <input type="checkbox"/> the causes of...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Literary Circles

- Small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature **in depth**.
- The discussion is **guided by students' response** to what they have read.
- They provide a way for students to **engage in critical thinking and reflection** as they read, discuss, and respond to books.

Literary Circles: Small Groups to Prepare for Whole class Discussion

PLOT

Identify 3 EVENTS that push the plot forward & reveal new complications.

Include p. #s of evidence and 2 important quotes.

Characters

Identify most important characters in these chapters and identify their traits. Include p. #s of evidence and 2 important quotes.

THEME

TOPIC: ASSIMILATION

Identify 3 events in these chapters which reveal most about TOPIC of study. Include p. #s of evidence and 2 important quotes.

CONFLICT

Provide examples of INTERNAL CONFLICT (Self v. Self, Self v. Social Norms) And EXTERNAL CONFLICT (Self v. Others, Self v. Society, Self v. Environment”

Coffeehouse Discussion

1. Describe Gogol's character traits. What motivates him?
2. Describe Moushimi's character traits. What motivates her?
3. How does the author foreshadow early signs of trouble in their relationship?
4. How does the theme of dissatisfaction present itself in both Gogol and Moushimi.
5. Does Gogol finally feel a sense of belonging with Moushimi. Explain.
6. What role does Gogol play in the downfall of his relationship with Moushimi? Or is he blameless?

Socratic Seminar: To prepare for Progress Checks

OBJECTIVES:

- Scholars will explore views of ASSIMILATION and the immigrant experience.
- Additionally, students will evaluate **the influence of these texts' ideas on contemporary American culture and society.**

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What are Jhumpa Lahiri's views of ASSIMILATION and the immigrant experience?
- How does LAHIRI reveal her views and ideals in her novel, *The Namesake*?
- What THEMES are revealed and what lessons are to be learned from its symbolic characters and the outcome of events?

Final Thoughts: Discussion Evaluation

SCORE

- I liked when _____ said _____ because _____.
- An interesting idea _____
- Something I learned from the discussion _____.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

- I still don't understand _____.
- IN THE NEXT SOCRATIC SEMINAR...