



THE FLETCHER SCHOOL
THE RANKIN INSTITUTE

Rising 11/12th Grade Summer Reading 2022
Passage Analysis and Reflection

For the Summer of 2022, each rising 11/12th-grade student has joined a Google Classroom. Each will be required to read *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig which will be pushed to their MacBook Airs before summer. If a paper copy is desired, the parents can purchase this for their child. If an audiobook is desired, it too can be purchased or checked out through the TFS Sora library or the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, but it should not be used in isolation as the student needs to follow the text as well. The assignment is due on the first day of classes, August 18, 2022.

Directions: While reading *The Midnight Library*, respond to the questions that accompany each excerpt using text evidence and support.

New Students: Please share your work with Mrs. Hall (lhall@thefletcherschool.org) before the first day of school.

Beginning to "The Three Horseshoes"

Passage: "Nora was only able to think of herself in terms of the things she wasn't. The things she hadn't been able to become."

Let's start with Nora at the beginning of the novel. Nothing is going right for her and she feels her life is already full of so many regrets.

Why did Nora feel this way? Why do you think she felt she had no other option but suicide?

Answer:

<p>As Mrs. Elm tells Nora how The Midnight Library works, she asks her, what would you have done differently, if you had the chance to redo your regrets? Have you ever thought about if you made a different choice, what your life would be like now?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>
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<p>Passage: "Doing one thing differently is often the same as doing everything differently"</p>	
<p>What do you think this quote means? How might it apply to her marriage to Dan?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>
<p>Write down one small thing you could have done differently that would have a large impact on your life. Explain.</p>	<p>Answer:</p>

"The Penultimate Update Nora Had Posted Before She Found Herself Between Life and Death" to "Island"

<p>Passage: "It wasn't the shock of having been close to death. It was the shock of realising she actually wanted to live."</p>	
<p>This is the second time that Nora has had a moment where she "reconsidered" dying. The first was when there was a system error and the thought of swimming temporarily "fixed" the error.</p>	
<p>So far, what do you think makes life worth living for Nora/ why does she want to live?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>
<p>What makes life worth living for you?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>

"Permafrost" to "God and Other Librarians"

Passage: "The Book of Regrets is getting lighter. There's a lot of white space in there now . . . It seems that you have spent all your life saying things that you aren't really thinking. This is one of your barriers.'

'Barriers?'

'Yes. You have a lot of them. They stop you from seeing the truth.'

'About what?'

'About yourself. And you really need to start trying. To see the truth. Because this matters.'"

At this point, Nora has realized that she does not want to die, but that her root life is still not worth living. However, Mrs. Elm suggests that might not be the case based on the changes in The Book of Regrets.

What do you think Nora's barriers are that keep her from seeing the truth about herself?

Answer:

What are some barriers that might keep you from seeing the truth?

Answer:

"Fame" to "Howl"

Passage: "Every second of every day we are entering a new universe. And we spend so much time wishing our lives were different, comparing ourselves to other people and to other versions of ourselves, when really most lives contain degrees of good and degrees of bad."

Nora is finally starting to take some of her experiences of these lives and realize that none of them are perfect, and they each have some good and some bad that goes with them.

Name degrees of good and some degrees of bad that Nora has experienced thus far.

Answer:

Do you agree with this statement? What are some really good things about your life right now? What are some things that you don't love as much?

Answer:

"Love and Pain" to "Last Chance Saloon"

Passage: "Never underestimate the big importance of small things."

In this section of the book, Nora requests 'a gentle life.' However, this is not the first time we have heard Mrs. Elm mention this phrase.	
What has led Nora to want 'a gentle life?'	Answer:
Why does she ultimately leave her life with Dylan?	Answer:
Has 'a gentle life' ever been something that you wanted? Why or why not?	Answer:

"Buena Vista Vineyard" to "A New Way of Seeing"

Passage: "This is a good life, Nora would think to herself, over and over again."	
By going on a date with Ash, it seems like Nora has ended up in the perfect life. But she has to remind herself of that fact. In the final chapters of this section, she realizes a few things about her impact on people in her root life.	
What has changed about Mr. Banerjee's life? And Leo's? What did those have to do with Nora?	Answer:
Who in your life do you have a small, positive impact on? How would their life be different if you no longer interacted with that person?	Answer:

"The Flowers Have Water"-End

Passage: "She could have been all those amazing things, and that wasn't depressing, as she had once thought. Not at all. It was inspiring. Because now she saw the kinds of things she could do when she put herself to work. And that, actually, the life she had been living had its own logic to it."	
Do you agree that knowing what you could have been could be inspiring rather than depressing? Explain.	

<p>What logic does Nora's root life have? Why has she made some of the decisions that she has up to this point? (Think about swimming, music, Dan, etc...)</p>	<p>Answer:</p>
<p>What has Nora learned about life by the end of the book? What lesson (s) have you learned?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>