

**Guided Reading: *Never Let Me Go***  
*Critical Thinking in Science Fiction*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** These questions and reflections are designed to guide the reader through the novel by addressing the book's plot, style, and themes. Effective comprehension requires a thorough reading of the book, insightful annotating, and using our lecture notes as reference. Consider this your study guide for future assessments.

**Part One**

1. Kathy introduces herself as an experienced carer. She prides herself on knowing how to keep her donors calm, "even before fourth donation" [chapter 1]. What do you think such terms as "donation," "carer," and "completed" mean?

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2. Kathy addresses us directly, with statements like "I don't know how it was where you were, but at Hailsham we used to have some form of medical every week" [chapter 2], and she thinks that we too might envy her having been at Hailsham [chapter 1]. What does Kathy assume about anyone she might be addressing, and why?

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3. Kathy tells the reader, "Looking back now, I can see why the Exchanges became so important to us.... they were the only means... of building up a collection of personal possessions." [chapter 2] Why do you think possession are so important to the students of Hailsham?

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4. Kathy tells the reader, "How you were regarded at Hailsham, how much you were liked and respected, had to do with how good you were at 'creating'" [chapter 2]. Why do you think Hailsham administrators attach such a high value to creativity?

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5. Kathy describes Madame as afraid of them, afraid “in the same way someone might be afraid of spiders.” [chapter 3] Why? Kathy goes on to reflect that the “first time you glimpse yourself through the eyes of a person like that, it’s a cold moment.” What do you think she means and how might this connect to the theme of identity?

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6. What do you think Miss Lucy meant when she tells Tommy that she felt they aren’t being “taught enough”? [chapter 4]

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7. How does Kathy describe the “world of Hailsham?” How do the “horrible stories about the woods” and the rumor of the girl who had “climbed over a fence just to see what it was like outside” inform her memories Hailsham, what it felt like, what it represented to the students? [chapter 5]

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8. Why do you think Ruth invents the story of Miss Geraldine and the pencil case? [chapter 5] What does this reveal about Ruth’s character, her intentions, and her insecurities?

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9. One of the most notable aspects of life at Hailsham is the power of the group. Students watch each other carefully and try on different poses, attitudes, and ways of speaking. Is this behavior typical of most adolescents, or is there something different about the way the students at Hailsham seek to conform?

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10. Why is the song "Never Let Me Go" so important to Kathy? And why do you think Madame is brought to tears when she discovers Kathy dancing to the song as she is walking by her room? [chapter 6]

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11. What do you think Miss Lucy meant when she told the students, "You were brought into this world for a purpose, and your futures, all of them, have been decided." What does it mean to be "told and not told?" [chapter 7]

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12. According to Tommy, in his conversation with Miss Lucy, she tells him, "Listen, Tommy, your art, it is important. And not just because it's evidence. But for your own sake. You'll get a lot from it, just for yourself." What does she mean by evidence? Evidence of what? [chapter 9]

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13. Kathy's narration is the key to the novel's disquieting effect. First person narration establishes a kind of intimacy between narrator and reader. What is it like having direct access to Kathy's mind and feelings? How would the novel be different if narrated from Tommy's point of view, or Ruth's, or Miss Emily's?

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