

122 12th British Literature 2024 Summer Reading Assignment

You have a two-part summer reading assignment.

Assignment 1: Read *The Buried Giant* (Ishiguro) and complete the Reading Comprehension questions (scroll to end).

Assignment 2: Complete the Post-Secondary Options Packet (see instructions below).

Annotations are not part of the graded assignment, but always annotate your text.

Read and annotate *The Buried Giant* (Kazuo Ishiguro) with the following focus in mind:

Annotations are notes written in the margins of your book. You may underline, highlight, circle, etc., but these do not count as annotations unless they are accompanied by words in the margins.

When annotating, focus on identifying and commenting on all references to or symbols of how characters' memories of each other, both good and bad, affect their relationships with each other. Also, focus on characters' forgetfulness and uncertainty of their past.

Furthermore, focus on the nature of the type of text you are reading, which is called magical realism. Common characteristics of a magical realist work of literature are fantastical elements in a natural setting, withholding of information or explanations about the supernatural occurrences, a deviation from conventional styles, and disorienting attention to detail. Annotate various parts of the text that incorporate these characteristics.

When you annotate, also keep the following ideas in mind:

- Note each new character.
 - Define unfamiliar words or slang.
 - Make connections to other parts of the book.
 - Make connections to other texts (connections to movies, music, video games, and/or art are also acceptable).
 - Make a visual connection (draw a picture or symbol).
 - Paraphrase or summarize difficult passages.
 - Offer your interpretation of what is happening in the text.
 - Identify figurative language or literary devices.
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Assignment 1: Prepare for *The Buried Giant* test by completing the Reading Comprehension Questions that are at the end of this assignment. The responses to these questions must be written, not typed. You will receive a 50% as a grade for this assignment (quiz grade) if the answers are typed. Please do not provide a one-word answer to the questions. A phrase is acceptable, and you DO NOT have to write in complete sentences.

Assignment 2: Complete the Post-Secondary Options Packet

This assignment is geared toward helping you to possess a comprehensive tool that will assist you, teachers, and counselors in preparing you for any college or post-secondary requirement.

Go to www.waltonhigh.org

Go to Departments

Go to School Counseling

Go to Class of 2025 tab

Scroll down on that page and locate the Post-Secondary Question Packet

Complete the packet and email it to your counselor on or before the first day of school.

OPTIONAL ---Complete a teacher recommendation page for each teacher you are asking to write a letter of recommendation for you.

Note: Your recommenders will be using this packet to write YOUR letters of recommendation. The more time, thought, and insight you spend on your responses, the more details your recommenders can include in their letters.

Good luck!

Required Reading Comprehension Questions.

Write your answers. Do not type them and do not use one-word answers. Writing phrases are acceptable. You will receive a 50% on the first quiz grade if your answers are typed. This assignment is due the first day of school.

THE BURIED GIANT – Chapter by Chapter Study Questions

PART ONE: Chapter 1

1. Describe the setting of the novel, including both place and time.
2. What does the presence of “ogres” in the novel suggest about the literary genre of the novel?
3. What are some of the dangers that the villagers face? How might these dangers affect the way they live their daily lives?
4. How might the absence of a candle from Axl and Beatrice’s home be symbolic?
5. Give three examples of superstitions that the villagers seem to believe.
6. What journey does Beatrice suggest to Axl that they take in the spring?

Chapter 2

1. Of what symbolic significance is the “Great Plain”? What will it mean to cross it?
2. What are some reasons that navigating was difficult in England at the time of the story?
3. Often in journey stories, the weather and landscape are used for literary functions (i.e. symbolism, foreshadowing, imagery, etc.). What might the description of the terrain and the incoming rain/dark skies the couple experience as they travel to the villa signify?
4. What reason does the Old Woman give for her ill-treatment of the Boatman? Why is she holding the rabbit?
5. How does the Boatman test the validity of the couples who wish to cross to the island together? What might his question suggest about the relationship between Axl and Beatrice?

Chapter 3

1. Why does Beatrice ask to see the medicine woman of the village?
2. Describe the attack on the two village fishermen. Who or what attacks them?
3. Why did the stranger originally stop in the village?
4. Who breaks up the crowd and saves the couple from the villagers?
5. The mist and its effects are referred to as a “Saxon superstition” (60). What effect does the mist appear to be having on people? What does Beatrice propose they seek to learn about the mist?
6. Who does the medicine woman recommend that the couple visit? For what reason?
7. What makes Querig such a danger to the villagers?
8. Who does Ivor propose is the only person capable of killing Querig?
9. How do the villagers treat the wounded child? Why?

10. What does Wistan suggest that Axl and Beatrice do with the boy when they leave the village and resume their travels? What is Axl's response to this idea?

Chapter 4

1. What is Edwin doing at the beginning of the chapter? Why?
2. Who is Steffa?
3. How did Edwin and Wistan come together? How does this reflect the supernatural elements of the novel?
4. Describe the animal that the ogres have on a leash and that is attacking Edwin.
5. What is the purpose of the bearskin in the cage?
6. There are several flashbacks in this chapter. What do we learn about Edwin from these flashbacks?

Chapter 5

1. Describe Wistan's plan for approaching the three soldiers.
2. How does the grey-haired soldier treat Beatrice?
3. What supernatural creature does Beatrice claim had been roaming through their village at night? What does she accuse it of doing?
4. Who is Horace?
5. Who is Lord Brennus?
6. Based on Gawain's comments, how did Arthur treat those he "conquered"?
7. Where does Wistan keep his sword? Why does he not carry it on his person?
8. Axl continues to have flashes of memory about his past. What do the subject of his memories suggest about his past?
9. What do we learn to be the real mission of the three soldiers from the bridge?
10. What do we learn about Wistan's real mission in this chapter? Why is Gawain upset to learn this?
11. Why does Wistan want Edwin to watch the fight, despite Beatrice's request that he look away?
12. According to Wistan, what are Lord Brennus's intentions? Why does he want Querig?

PART TWO: Chapter 6

1. Who is Father Brian? How does he treat his guests?
2. Why does Erasmus throw rocks at the numerous birds in the rafters?
3. Why does Gawain doubt that Lord Brennus will be able to use Querig?
4. Why is Wistan cutting the wood?
5. Who did Wistan conclude that Axl reminded him of from his youth?
6. What do the birds represent to Jonus? What do they do to the men in the monastery?
7. What causes the mist? What does the mist do?
8. What warning does Jonus give Beatrice regarding the removal of the mist?

Chapter 7

1. Who leads Axl, Beatrice, and Edwin to "safety"? Why must they flee?
2. Where is Wistan as the others are fleeing?
3. What is the cause of Jonus's injuries according to Gawain?
4. Gawain confesses to telling the abbot about Edwin and Wistan. What does he do once he learns of the monk's plot against them?
5. According to Gawain, what actually bit Edwin? Why does this make him dangerous?
6. Describe Gawain's plan to kill the beast they encounter at the gate.
7. What part of the beast remained after its charge? What happened to it?

Chapter 8

1. Why does Edwin feel that he let Wistan down?
2. Why does Wistan instruct Edwin to load the wagon with hay?
3. Describe the moat that surrounds the old tower. What is its purpose?
4. How is the tower used as a trap for enemies? How is the moat really used?
5. How would those who set the trap escape from the tower?

PART THREE: Gawain's First Reverie

1. What is the one weakness that Gawain notices in Wistan as he watched him fight?
2. Why do the dark widows approach Gawain in the road? What is their complaint?
3. How does Gawain respond to the widows' accusations? What reason does he give for not having accomplished his task?
4. Why does Edra claim that she wants to kill the Saxon warrior?
5. What does Gawain do for Edra after he returns from his mission with Querig?
6. Who does Gawain meet on the battlefield?

7. Why do the Saxons feel such “sheer anger and hatred” for the Britons? (212).
8. What reason does Gawain give Axl for why Arthur’s men had to kill the women and children?

Chapter 10

1. Describe Wistan’s condition when he and Edwin are reunited.
2. Why is Edwin ashamed to stand in front of Wistan?
3. Who eventually showed up with the wagon full of hay?
4. Why do you think that Wistan is so quick to forgive Edwin? What clues to Wistan’s real motive for bringing Edwin along with him are revealed in this chapter?
5. What is Edwin’s “deception” of Wistan? What is Edwin’s real motive for continuing to travel with the warrior?
6. What do we learn in this chapter about Wistan’s past relationship with Lord Brennus? Why do they hate one another so much?

Chapter 11

1. What do Axl and Beatrice end up using to get down the river?
2. As they progress down the river, Beatrice experiences a memory/dream. What is the subject of the memory?
3. Who do they find in the boat? Describe her appearance/condition.
4. Why do you think that Beatrice repeatedly tells Axl, “Don’t forget me” (229)?
5. What covers up the old woman in the boat? What emotional reaction does the old woman, and even Axl have to these creatures?
6. Where is Beatrice while Axl is doing battle with the creatures?
7. What do the creatures promise to do if Axl leaves Beatrice with them?
8. How does Axl rescue Beatrice?

Chapter 12

1. Why is Edwin frustrated with Wistan at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Why does Wistan tie the rope to Edwin? How does Edwin react?
3. Describe what Edwin sees at the pond in the clearing.
4. What promise does Wistan ask Edwin to make to him?
5. What does Wistan mean when he says, “When the hour’s too late for rescue, it’s still early enough for revenge” (243)?

Chapter 13

1. Who do Axl and Beatrice encounter at the old stone cottage? What are the cottage occupants doing when Axl and Beatrice approach?
2. How do the village occupants greet Axl and Beatrice? What do they tell them?
3. Why are the couple pulling the goat along with them?
4. Describe Beatrice’s dream. How does she treat Axl after she awakes?
5. What had the children done to the goat? Why?
6. Who is Bronwen?
7. Where are the children’s parents? What has this to do with the dragon?
8. What do the children want Axl and Beatrice to do with the goat? How do the couple react to the request?

Gawain’s Second Reverie

1. Explain the influence that King Arthur still holds over Gawain. Why do you think this is?
2. What role does the Arthurian magician, Merlin, play in the novel? How was he involved with the dragon?
3. How does Gawain feel about his anticipated reunion with Wistan?
4. Does Gawain think the goat plan will work against Querig? Why or why not?

PART FOUR: Chapter 15

1. At this point, it has become apparent that Gawain and Axl both served King Arthur. For what reason does Axl leave Arthur’s service?
2. According to Gawain’s recollection, how did Arthur respond to Axl’s cursing him to his face?
3. Why does Gawain always defend the actions of Arthur? Do you think he feels regret over some of the things he did in Arthur’s service?
4. What do we learn about Gawain’s *true* mission in this chapter? What conflict does this present?
5. What makes Wistan uniquely qualified for the mission to kill the dragon?
6. How did the she-dragon’s breath become capable of creating the mist of forgetfulness? Who was responsible?
7. What request does Gawain make of Axl and Beatrice if he were to lose the fight?
8. What request does Wistan make of Axl and Beatrice if *he* were to lose the fight?
9. What does Wistan promise Beatrice he will do once he has killed the dragon?

10. Wistan determines that Axl is the Briton from his childhood who fought for the rights of the innocents during war. How does Axl react? What does he ask Wistan?
11. How does Wistan kill the dragon?
12. What does Wistan mean when he says, "...this dragon died to make ready the way for the coming conquest"? (298).
13. What is the unexpected consequence of slaying the dragon and lifting the mist of forgetfulness from the land?
14. What is the buried giant?
15. Based on Wistan's words, what could be expected to happen as a result of the slaying of the she-dragon?

Chapter 16

1. Who unties Edwin from the tree? What is his reaction to this person?
2. What promise does Edwin remember he made to Wistan? Why is this promise more significant now?
3. Why does Axl and Beatrice ask Edwin to remember them and their friendship?
4. By the end of this chapter, Edwin no longer hears the voice of his mother. What does this imply? Who must he now rely on?

Chapter 17

1. Who is the first-person narrator of the final chapter of the novel?
2. Based on Beatrice's recently acquired memory, where does her son live?
3. What is unique about the island that Beatrice describes to the boatman?
4. What are the requirements for couples to remain together on the island?
5. What question does the boatman ask Axl that he promises will have no bearing on his decision to take them to the island?
6. What does Axl tell the boatman about the circumstances around his son's leaving? What actually happened to their son?
7. What reason does Axl give for not allowing Beatrice to visit the grave of their son?
8. Explain the quote, "God will know the slow tread of an old couple's love for each other and understand how black shadows make part of its whole" (313). How does this quote reflect the theme of memory?
9. Consider this question posed to Beatrice by Axl: "Could it be our love would never have grown so strong down the years had the mist not robbed us the way it did?" (316). How does this quote reflect the primary message of the novel?