

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Still Life With Rice By Helie Lee



As incoming Communications 9 students, you are expected to obtain your **OWN** copy of this book so that you can prepare for the first week of school next year and fully participate in the class work and discussions that will follow. Many students took the opportunity to purchase the book at the Spring Book Fair; however, it can also be ordered from an online bookstore such as amazon.com. Alternatively, you may have your own contacts in the States who could provide you with a copy of the book.

Over the summer, it is your job to carefully read this book. That entails more than just ingesting the words, you need to consider the events in Hongyong Baek's life and think about the impact of these events on her life as well as on the lives of all Koreans who lived through them. You need to make the connection between her life and your own life.

To assist you in this process, you will create a typed, personal response to the book which will be **due on the first day of class** in August. Because this is more of a journal response than an essay, a certain degree of informality is expected and personal pronouns may be used. That being said, your finished product should be a final draft (edited/revised and typed)

For the purpose of this response, you will pick three events in Hongyong Baek's life. One of these events must come from the beginning of the book (Chapters 1-12), one from the middle (Chapters 13-20), and one from the end (Chapters 22-34). You will write a brief summary (3-5 sentences) of each event. You will then write a response (7-10 sentences) to the event that clearly illustrates your personal connection to the event. Here are some questions to consider for the responses:

1. How does this relate to your own life? While you did not live through these specific events, have you experienced something similar? Have you felt the same emotions (e.g., desperation)?
2. Is this something that a relative of yours experienced? If so, how does Hongyong Baek's experience similar/different from your relative?
3. Would you have reacted in a similar way to this event? Why or why not?
4. What is it about the event that stands out to you? Why?
5. Is this an event that you knew about through history class and/or family stories prior to reading the book? If so, what did you know previously? What was new for you?

This assignment, the first of the year, will be worth a total of 30 points. You want to start the year strong by performing your very best on this task. Be sure to do your own work, putting all writing in your own words.

Be aware that any short cut to reading the novel will impact your performance on this response assignment. It will also jeopardize your ability to pass the accountability quiz that will be administered in the first week. Furthermore, it will limit your ability to participate in discussions and follow-up activities. Summaries obtained by any source will not be able to capture the unique features of this work and its author's voice. They will also not contain the detail needed to be successful. We suggest that you get the book early and read it thoroughly for the greatest chance of success.

We look forward to meeting you in August and learning more about you by reading your personal responses to this book.

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