

## Summer Reading for Accelerated English 11

### Read the following:

*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

**Please Note:** Accelerated English 11 emphasizes World Literature, and seeks to answer the question, “how can literature enhance our understanding of our global community?” To that end, we will be reading several works from around the globe. To begin, we will be looking at writings from authors who offer insight into the diverse American experience.

**Summary of *The Namesake*:** In August 1968, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli welcome their brand new baby boy into the world. Happy times, right? Well, sort of. Only in order to be released from their hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, they must break with Bengali custom and give their son an official name on that pesky birth certificate. Ashoke has got this one covered. He names their son Gogol, after the Russian novelist. Apparently Gogol saved Ashoke's life when he was injured in a train crash in India, back in 1961. And by Gogol we mean his books – not the man himself. The Gangulis eventually move to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they raise Gogol and, a few years later, their daughter Sonali. Growing up, Gogol gradually realizes that his name is quite unusual, and he really doesn't like that. He doesn't like that at all. Annoyed by the Bengali customs of his parents, Gogol totally embraces American popular culture. The summer before he leaves to attend college at Yale, he officially changes his name to Nikhil. Gogol is no more.

### Assignment Guidelines

**Annotations (40 process points)** - As you read, **color code your annotations** for theme and symbols as directed below.

**\*NOTE: This must show effort and intention for full credit.**

Motif	Color	Symbol	Color
The Indian immigrant experience (alienation, distance, etc)	pink	Trains	green
Family, tradition, & ritual	yellow	Books	orange
Independence, rebellion, & coming of age	purple	Graves & Graveyards	red
Identity & naming	blue	The Circle of Life: Birth, Death, and Rebirth	Underline

**Analysis:**

**Motif: Family, traditions, & ritual**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

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**Motif: Independence, rebellion & coming of age**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

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**Motif: Identity & naming**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

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**Symbol: Trains**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

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**Symbol: Books**

**Quote:**

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**Symbol: Graves & graveyards**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

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**Symbol: The Circle of Life: birth, death, and rebirth**

**Quote:**

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**Analysis:**

[illegible]