



**LIONHEART**  
EDUCATIONAL  
TRUST

*English Literature Transition*

*The Non-Examined Assessment*

# The Non-Examined Assessment

- In the summer of Year 12, you will get the exciting opportunity to pick a book (completely of your choosing) to write an essay on. The question focus will also be your choice.
- This will form one of your two non-examined assessment (or NEA) pieces and will be worth 10% of your final grade. You will complete a second essay on a collection of poetry and will also have plenty of choice here. This second essay will also be worth 10% of your final grade meaning your NEA folder helps you secure 20% of your end grade by the end of Year 12 so is both a very enjoyable and very reassuring feature of the course.

# The Transition Project

- One of the things that students sometimes struggle with is that having so much choice means that they don't know where to start.
- The independent nature of the reading is also something that you may not have much experience of.
- This transition project seeks to rectify this by giving you a 'dry run' of the reading, note taking and planning that you will complete when you start your actual coursework.
- All the books suggested here could be used for the actual NEA too, so if you love the book and get some great ideas for a topic to write about, then that is an option.

# The Transition Project

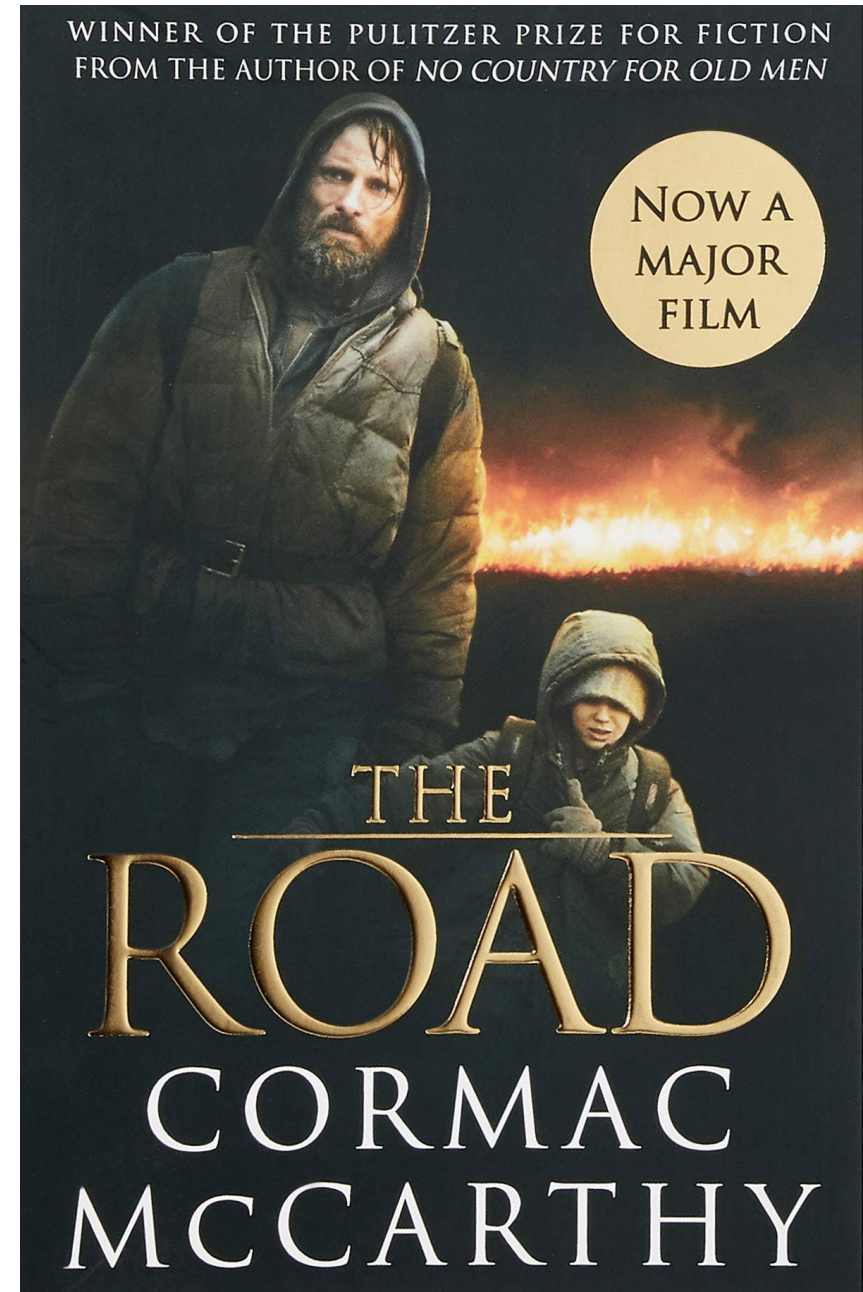
- Your task is to choose **one** of the five following books to read in its entirety.
- While reading you should be making significant notes in line with the individual suggestions that accompany the text. These should be neat and well organised but could be handwritten or typed. You will be expected to bring them in when you start at the college and to keep them in the NEA section of your folder.
- When you have finished reading, you should type up an answer to the text-specific opinion based question. This should be handed to your A Level teacher at the start of next year. It will **not** be given a grade but will be commented on. This will also form part of the NEA section of your folder.

# Text Choices

- Remember that you are choosing **ONE** of these options. There is **no expectation that you will read all 5**. There are 3 slides per book, but you may wish to read the blurb slide (numbered below) for all 5 to help you make your decision on which text you would most enjoy.
1. The Road by Cormac McCarthy (slide 6)
  2. Mansfield Park by Jane Austen (slide 9)
  3. Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier (slide 12)
  4. 1000 Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (slide 15)
  5. Fruit of the Lemon by Andrea Levy (slide 18)

# THE ROAD

- The Road by Cormac McCarthy
- Published: 2006
- Genre: post apocalyptic fiction, dystopia
- Blurb: The Road is a 2006 post-apocalyptic novel by American writer Cormac McCarthy. The book details the grueling journey of a father and his young son over a period of several months across a landscape blasted by an unspecified cataclysm that has destroyed industrial civilization and almost all life.



# THE ROAD

Make detailed notes on the following as you read:

- How and where is the natural world presented as threatening and dangerous?
- How and where is the natural world presented as irrevocably destroyed by man?
- Are there any moments of hope in the text? What is the effect of including these?
- Chart the relationship between the boy and the man. Who holds the power within their relationship and when does this change?
- What is the effect of the sparse language and limited punctuation?
- What are the key moments within the story?
- What are the narrative gaps (ie - what information are we deliberately not given) and what is the effect of these on the story?
- What is the impact of the ending?

# THE ROAD

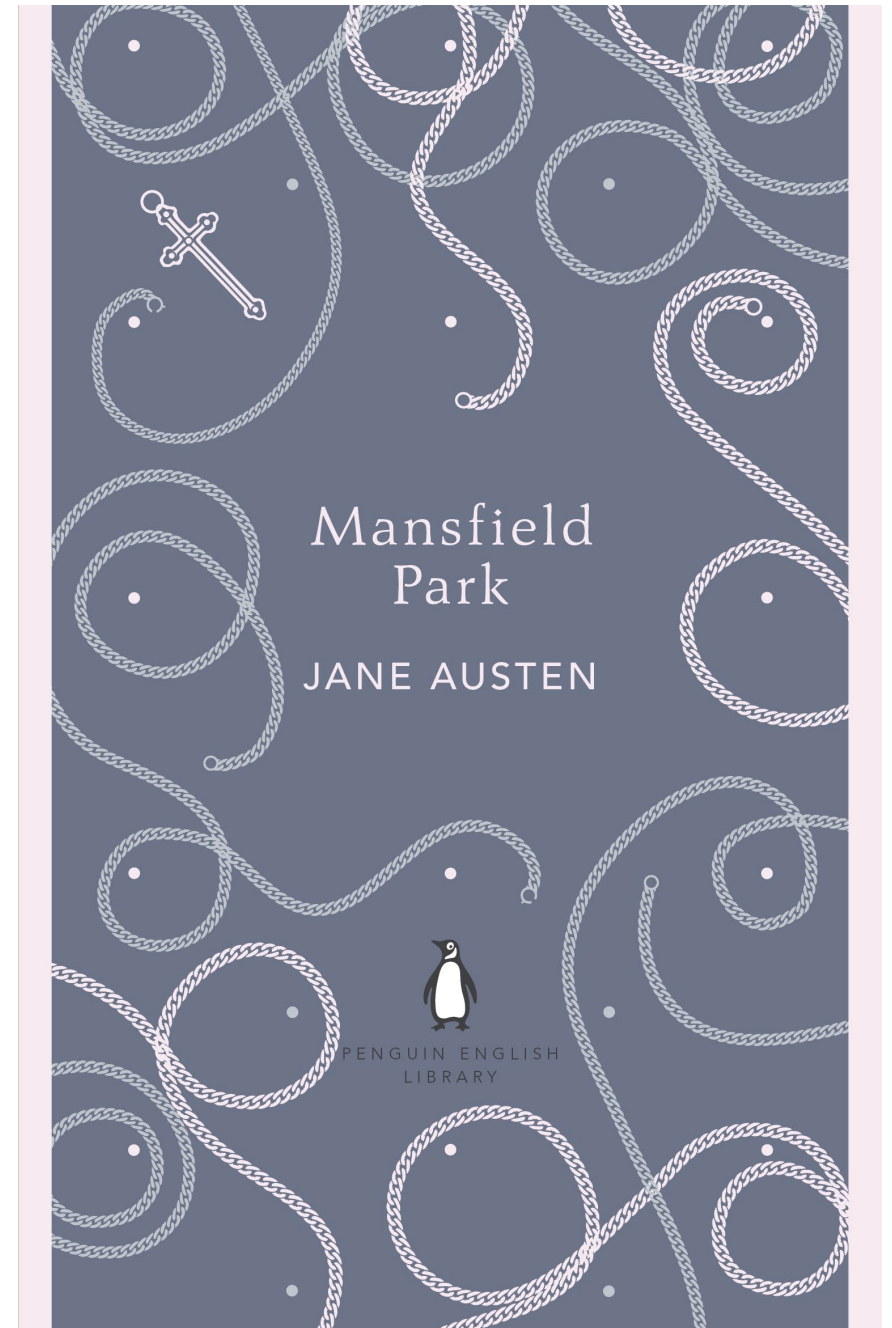
Write two or three paragraphs in response to this question. We are looking primarily for your opinion as a reader so there is no right answer but you should support your answer with some details from the text and write in an academic fashion. You should also take time to carefully proof read for clarity and accuracy.

'The Road is a pointless and depressing story with no real message to the reader at all.' To what extent do you agree?



# Mansfield Park

- Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
- Published: 1814
- Genre: social satire, romance, period
- Blurb: Taken from the poverty of her parents' home in Portsmouth, Fanny Price is brought up with her rich cousins at Mansfield Park, acutely aware of her humble rank and with her cousin Edmund as her sole ally. During her uncle's absence in Antigua, the Crawford's arrive in the neighbourhood bringing with them the glamour of London life and a reckless taste for flirtation. Mansfield Park is considered Jane Austen's first mature work and, with its quiet heroine and subtle examination of social position and moral integrity, one of her most profound.



# Mansfield Park

Make detailed notes on the following as you read:

- How is the natural setting of Mansfield Park presented as tamed and ordered?
- What is the impact of the descriptions of the summer's heat on the characters; Fanny in particular?
- Chart the relationship between the three sisters; Mrs Bertram, Mrs Norris and Mrs Price? What factors have a significant impact on how they interact with each other?
- How does Austen use the play within the book (The Lover's Vow) as a way to further reveal characters?
- How is the society within Mansfield Park presented as threatened by social transformation. Does the heroine, Fanny, resist or endorse it herself?
- Do you think Fanny is a dull and unambitious heroine or do you find her brave and heroic? Why?
- Compare the characterisations of Henry Crawford and Edmund.
- Is the ending satisfactory? Why? Why not?

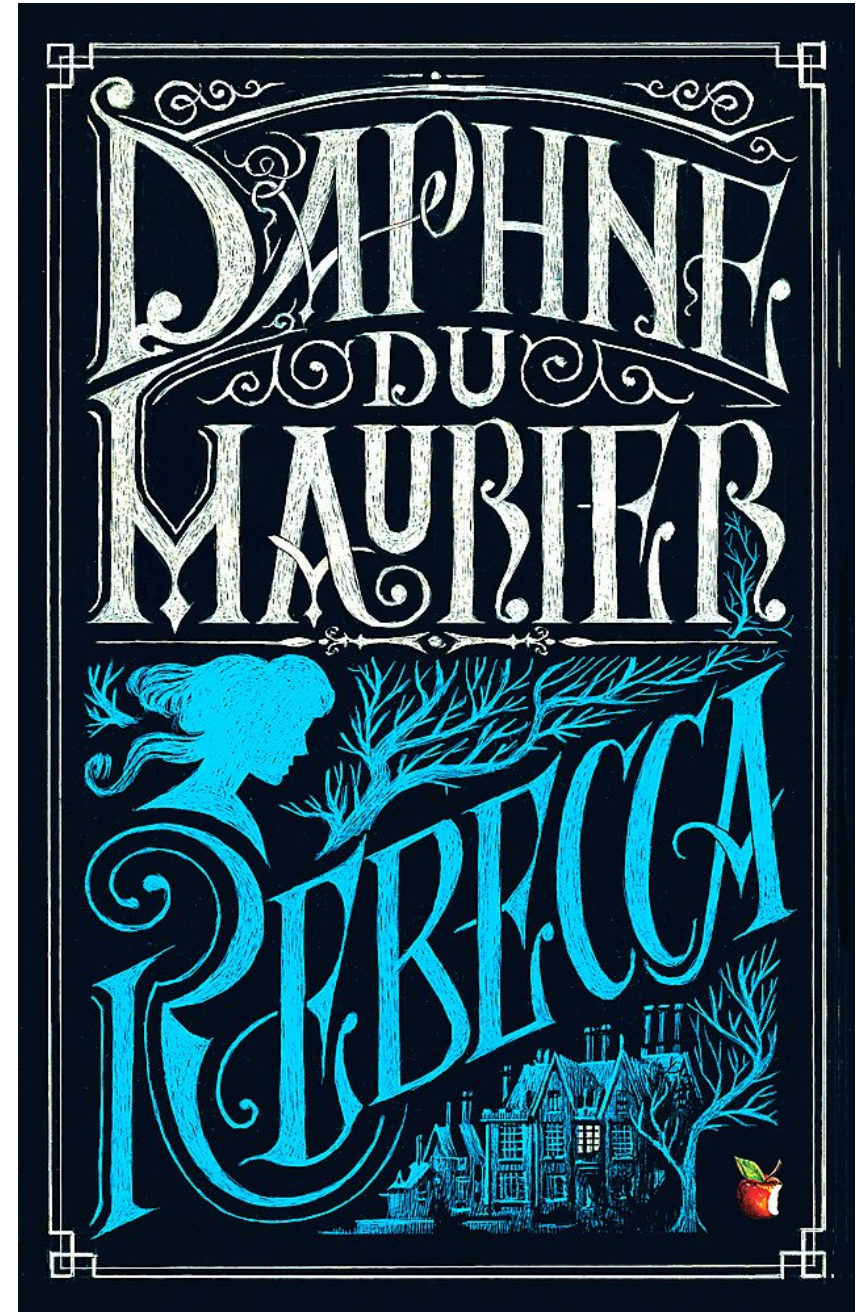
# Mansfield Park

Write two or three paragraphs in response to this question. We are looking primarily for your opinion as a reader so there is no right answer but you should support your answer with some details from the text and write in an academic fashion. You should also take time to carefully proof read for clarity and accuracy.

'At the end of Mansfield Park all the characters get exactly what they deserve.' To what extent do you agree?

# REBECCA

- Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
- Published: 1938
- Genre: gothic, crime, mystery, romance
- Blurb: On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine of Rebecca falls in love with Maxim de Winter, a handsome, wealthy widower. Although his proposal comes as a surprise, she happily agrees to marry him. But as they arrive at her husband's home, Manderley, a change comes over Maxim, and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated mansion, she realises that she barely knows him. In every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, and the new Mrs de Winter walks in her shadow.



# REBECCA

Make detailed notes on the following as you read:

- What effect does it have on the novel that the narrator has no first name?
- How is Rebecca presented in terms of gender in the novel? Is she overtly feminine, masculine or is her gender more fluid?
- How are the gardens in Manderley used by du Maurier? Consider the differences between the East and West Wing and what they represent about wildness and order?
- What separates Maxim and the narrator most? Is it class or is it age and gender?
- Track the relationship between Maxim and the narrator? Who holds the power at when does this change?
- Discuss the relationship between the narrator and the servants? Why does she desire their approval? What role does Mrs Danvers play in the novel?
- Is Rebecca a ghost story or a psychological thriller?
- Is the ending satisfactory?

# REBECCA

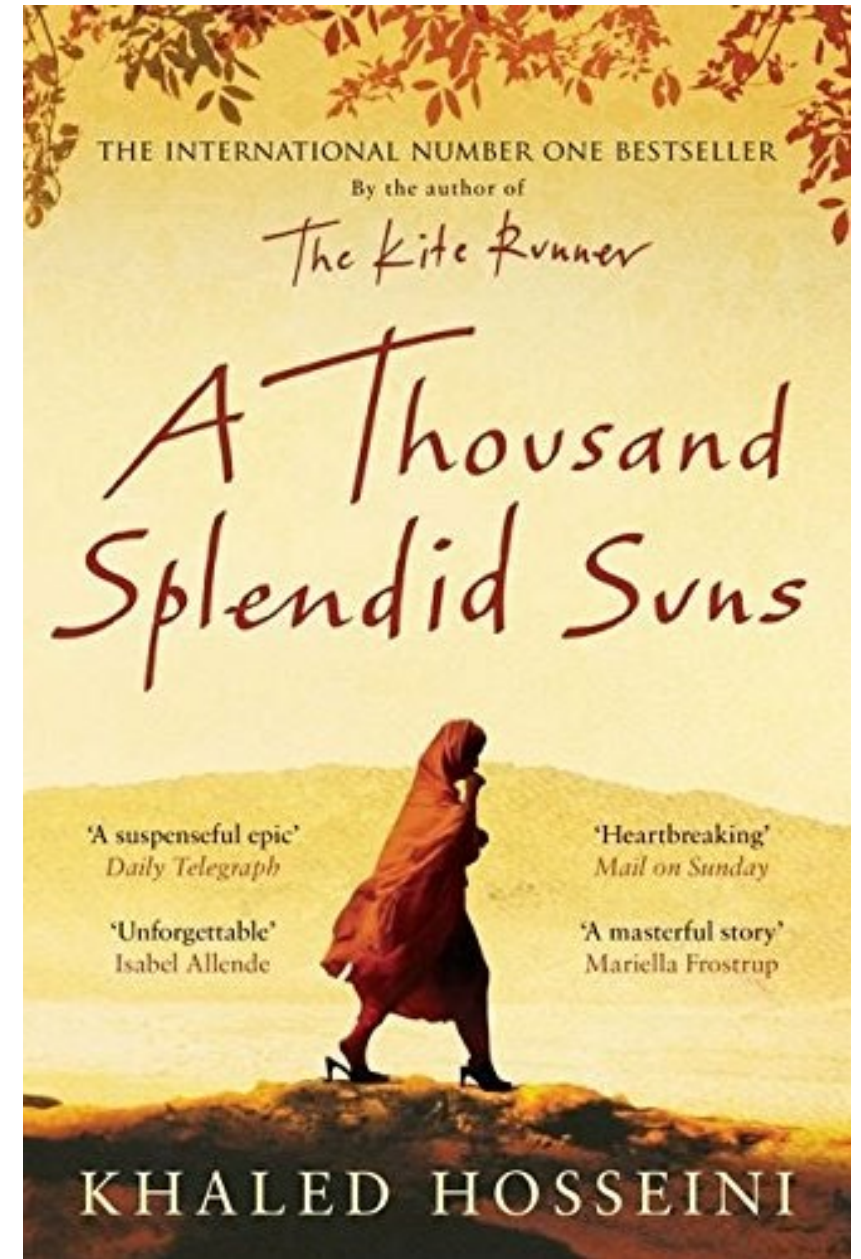
Write two or three paragraphs in response to this question. We are looking primarily for your opinion as a reader so there is no right answer but you should support your answer with some details from the text and write in an academic fashion. You should also take time to carefully proof read for clarity and accuracy.

'Rebecca is not a strong, independent woman, she is a sociopath.' To what extent do you agree?



# 1000 Sjbëndid Suns

- 1000 Spendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
- Published: 2007
- Genre: historical fiction, war, coming of age
- Blurb: Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later, a friendship grows between Mariam and a local teenager, Laila, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. When the Taliban take over, life becomes a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear. Yet love can move a person to act in unexpected ways, and lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism.



# 1000 Splendid Suns

Make detailed notes on the following as you read:

- Take notes on the various mothers in the novel? Who are they? How are they differently presented?
- The title of the novel is taken from a poem that celebrates the beauty of Kabul. Consider the natural setting of Afghanistan. How is it presented as beautiful and resilient?
- Notice the link between Mariam and natural imagery. How does Hosseini use this to comment on her strength and on society?
- Track the power dynamics between Mariam, Laila and Rasheed. Who holds the power at different points in the novel and when/why does this change?
- What sort of challenges to girls face in trying to get an education? How do Mariam and Laila view education? What is the impact on her aspirations of Laila's father's views on education?
- How does Hosseini reject colonial presentations of Muslim women and instead present his characters as individuals who do not need 'saving'?
- What links does Hosseini present between economic empowerment and women's rights?
- Is the novel a tragedy or a story filled with hope?



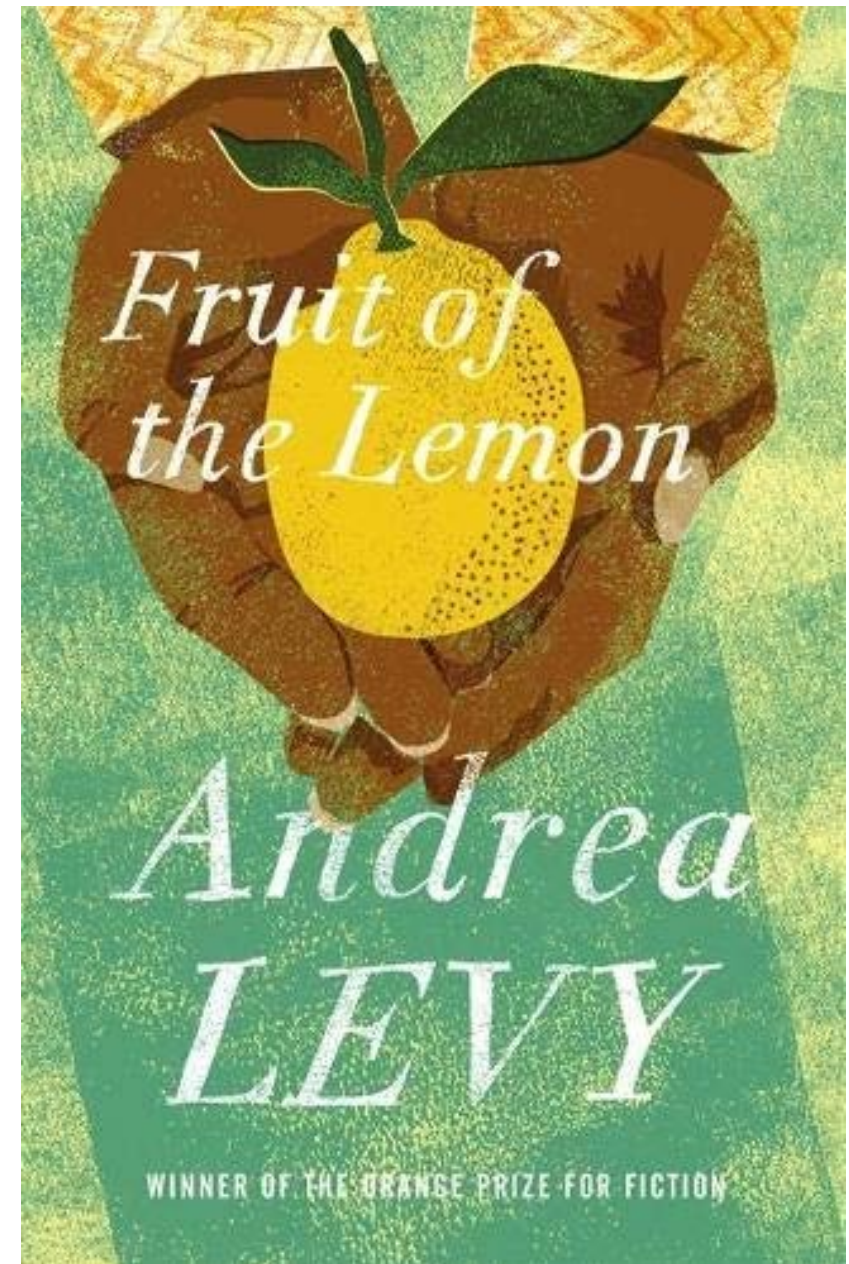
# 1000 Splendid Suns

Write two or three paragraphs in response to this question. We are looking primarily for your opinion as a reader so there is no right answer but you should support your answer with some details from the text and write in an academic fashion. You should also take time to carefully proof read for clarity and accuracy.

'1000 Splendid Suns is devastating and uplifting in equal measure.' To what extent do you agree?

# FRUIT OF THE LEMON

- Fruit of the lemon by Andrea Levy
- Published: 1999
- Genre: coming of age, family drama
- Blurb: Faith Jackson fixes herself up with a great job in TV and the perfect flatshare. But neither is that perfect - and nor are her relations with her overbearing, though always loving family. Furious and perplexed when her parents announce their intention to retire back home to Jamaica, Faith makes her own journey there, where she is immediately welcomed by her Aunt Coral, keeper of a rich cargo of family history. Through the weave of her aunt's storytelling a cast of characters unfolds stretching back to Cuba and Panama, Harlem and Scotland, a story that passes through London and sweeps through continents.



# FRUIT OF THE LEMON

Make detailed notes on the following as you read:

- Consider the presentation of London through Faith's perspective. How does Faith become increasingly aware of the covert and explicit racism she experiences?
- How is the structure of Fruit of the Lemon used by Levy to help create Faith's sense of belonging and identity?
- Do you like the shared narration of the second half of the novel? What is the effect of the inclusion of so many additional narrative voices?
- Consider the descriptions of the Jamaican and the British landscapes. How does Levy use her setting to create or contrast mood and to contribute to the theme of 'home.'
- Consider Faith's family dynamics – how does Levy exploit them to create both humour and tension?
- The ending has been described by some critics as 'abrupt.' Do you agree?

# FRUIT OF THE LEMON

Write two or three paragraphs in response to this question. We are looking primarily for your opinion as a reader so there is no right answer but you should support your answer with some details from the text and write in an academic fashion. You should also take time to carefully proof read for clarity and accuracy.

‘Fruit of the Lemon is primarily a story about home.’ To what extent do you agree?