

Traditional Paper Options (Rubric: Content / Evidence / Organization / Spelling, Grammar, Style, etc.)

Submit a paper of no less than 1,250 words (not including Works Cited) in response to one of the prompts below. You may cite outside sources in support of your claims, but your paper should primarily reflect your own analysis and interpretation of the text. If you do use outside sources, use books and/or authored articles and criticism found in scholarly journals, not general websites.

Formatting requirements: Times New Roman 12, 1" margins, double-spaced, MLA style. For information about MLA guidelines, see the Purdue Owl link in the *Bedroom*. Papers must be printed, stapled, and submitted in class. Please do not e-mail your paper unless you are absent on the due date. Late papers/projects will not be accepted.

## Prompts:

1. A contested adoption story is woven into the plot of *Little Fires Everywhere*. Since so much of this book is about the complex relationships between mothers and daughters, imagine that Izzy does not set fire to the house and disappear, but instead she files a lawsuit requesting a divorce from her family on moral/ethical grounds. Write as the judge issuing your opinion. Instead of a trial, assume the evidence that Izzy presents and her father uses (as the family attorney) to counter her arguments is the complete text of the novel, and all the information therein.
2. Identify three extracts of one to five paragraphs in length that, taken together, establish the role of setting in the novel. Your paper will have two parts: 1) a concise, interpretive assessment of Shaker Heights as it appears in the book based on a close reading of these extracts; and 2) the cultural impact of this environment on one of the teenage characters in the book. Be sure to make frequent use of the text to support your claims.
3. What is the central message in *Little Fires Everywhere*? Do you agree or disagree with it? Why?
4. Find a review of the novel published in a reputable source (newspaper, magazine, online journal) or critical article and argue *against* the writer's main point.

Creative Project Options (Rubric: Concept / Execution / Quality)

1. Photography is central to the text of *Little Fires Everywhere* in at least three ways: as a subject for study, as a plot device, and as an extension of the narrative that suggests deeper meanings. For your project, create an artwork that expresses some aspect of the novel that sparked strong emotions as you read it. Your finished artwork must incorporate photography, but do not merely produce a photograph; rather, you must use photographic material to create a deeper concept piece in the way that Mia Warren does repeatedly in the book. Along with your artwork, which you will present in class, please submit a one-page description of your concept that explains why you chose it, and the methodology you used in bringing your idea to life.
2. Write a fictional story of no less than 2,000 words that extends the story in some way. In other words, what do you think happens to Izzy, to Mia and/or Pearl, to Lexie at Yale (?), to Moody, Trip, Mrs. Richardson, or Mirabelle/May Ling? Be sure to ground your story firmly in the characterization and events established in *Little Fires Everywhere*. Include a one-page "pitch" in which you explain what you were trying to express. Be creative! Note: the usual formatting requirements (above) do not apply for fiction; use whatever font you like.