

Writing Assignment: The Omelas Précis

Reminder: A **précis** (pronounced *pray-see*) is a highly structured, super-focused four-sentence summary of a text. It doesn't just tell the reader *what* happens in a story; it explains *how* the author delivers their message and *why* they wrote it. Because this is your first attempt, you may use the sentence starters below to draft your response. Fill in the blanks with your own analysis, making sure to use strong, active verbs. **Remember** they are only there to help and guide you, you may write without them.

Prompt: Write a formal four-sentence précis analyzing Ursula K. Le Guin's short story, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas."

The Four-Sentence Template

- **Sentence 1 (The Who/What)**
 - *Example starter:* In her philosophical short story, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1973), Ursula K. Le Guin **[strong verb]** that...
- **Sentence 2 (The How)**
 - *Example starter:* She supports this claim by first describing... and then contrasting it with...
- **Sentence 3 (The Why/Purpose)**
 - *Example starter:* Le Guin's purpose is to **[strong verb]** her readers in order to force them to question...
- **Sentence 4 (The Who/Audience)**
 - *Example starter:* She adopts a(n) **[adjective]** tone for an audience of **[describe the readers]** who must decide whether they would stay in Omelas or walk away.

Grading Reminder

- ☐ **Exactly Four Sentences:** No more, no less.
- ☐ **No Spoilers/Plot Summary:** Focus on the *meaning* and *themes* of the story, not just a recap of what happens.
- ☐ **Strong Verbs:** Avoid weak verbs like *says*, *writes*, or *shows*. Use analytical verbs like *depicts*, *challenges*, *highlights*, or *critiques*. You can also use your Jeff.
- ☐ **The Big Question:** Your précis should clearly reflect the ultimate choice of the story—the decision to stay in a flawed paradise or walk away into the unknown.