

Things We Didn't See Coming and Never Let Me Go

Practice Topics

1. 'While the world of *Never Let Me Go* is more superficially idyllic than the one in *Things We Didn't See Coming*, the characters are in a more painful situation.' Discuss.
2. "You're trained ... and you stay professional. Anyway, all our lives are big dark disasters." (*Things We Didn't See Coming*) "... so long as a corporation or a politician could see a benefit in supporting us, then we were able to keep afloat." (*Never Let Me Go*). Compare the ways in which these texts show the harmful effects of excessive control.
3. Compare how *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *Never Let Me Go* view the power of love.
4. Compare the ways in which the two texts condemn social inequality.
5. 'People often recognise the misuse of power, but they are rarely able to change it.' Compare how this idea is explored in the two texts.
6. "... I am sure in my blood we'll doom ourselves to always live exactly as we have lived ...never staying anywhere long enough to make anything real." (*Things We Didn't See Coming*) "... some people ... start out positively enough, but then comes all that time spent so close to the pain and the worry. And sooner or later a donor doesn't make it ... you're demoralised." (*Never Let Me Go*). Compare the role of hope in *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *Never Let Me Go*.
7. Compare the ways in which *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *Never Let Me Go* represent societies characterised by fear.
8. Compare the choices made by the protagonists in *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *Never Let Me Go*.
9. Compare what *Things We Didn't See Coming* and *Never Let Me Go* have to say about the ways in which individuals respond to moral dilemmas.
10. Compare how these two texts examine the impact of misinformation and repression.
11. Compare how the two texts show the importance of human freedom in difficult circumstances.
12. "If asked, I will tell her that it was never a conscious wish of mine to become a criminal. It was an apocalyptic choice." (*Things We Didn't See Coming*) "Your life must now run the course that's been set for it." (*Never Let Me Go*). Compare how the two texts explore the importance of personal freedom.
13. Compare how the two texts examine the themes of betrayal and deception.
14. Compare what the two texts suggest about the importance of relationships.
15. 'Fear and anxiety can drive people to act in uncharacteristic ways.' Compare the ways in which the two texts explore responses to fear.
16. 'Power and corruption go hand-in-hand.' Compare how this idea is explored in the two texts.
17. Compare how the texts depict what it means to be human.
18. Compare the ways in which the two texts explore the inequities in their societies.
19. Compare how *Never Let Me Go* and *Things We Didn't See Coming* explore the importance of adaptability in an uncertain future.
20. How does the inevitability of loss shape the experiences of the characters in the two texts?