

IB English Summer Reading, Junior Year 2022-2023
Portage Northern High School, International Baccalaureate
Organization
IBO English 11, English A: Literature

Welcome!

Welcome to the Language A component of the IBO program. We are looking forward to working with you as we explore a variety of literature from around the world. As a starting point, we would like to offer a philosophical basis from which we can begin our studies. Ralph Waldo Emerson proposes that “Language is a city to the building of which every human being brings a stone.” Let us move into the next school year by attempting to build an experience through language wherein each of us offers a vital and unique contribution.

Course Description

“The language A1 programme aims to promote an appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of the language and to lead to an awareness of linguistic structures. It seeks to facilitate the clear expression of ideas, to aid clear, precise presentation of argument and to assist in the understanding of both oral and written discourse. The Language A1 programme encourages the development of an appreciation of literature and knowledge of the culture of the student’s own society and that of other societies.”

Summer Reading

One of the pivotal components of the IB program is its focus on a wide variety of literature. Select the title best suited to your interests, go to the library or bookstore and browse, log on to Amazon.com to read reviews, and talk to others who may have read these titles. Enjoy.

Order or purchase your Summer Reading copy today so that you don’t forget! It is expected that students will have a physical copy of the book in hand when class begins, and it’s helpful to annotate it with post-it notes along the way to be prepared for class discussion.

Pick ONE text, read it carefully, and take notes (directions on next page)

- *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte
- *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens
- *The Bean Trees* or *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett
- *Seabiscuit* or *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Into the Wild* or *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

1. **Come to the FIRST full day of class in the fall having read the book and with a copy of it in hand. Be ready to write and talk about your texts.**
2. **Prepare notes and bring these notes to class on the first day. Your notes should include the following items:**

Note: You should take these notes WHILE you are reading, so knowing what you're looking for ahead of time and stopping every now and then to write can be helpful. Don't just read for what is happening, read with a critical eye so that you can appreciate the author's skill and craft (what they are doing in their storytelling that makes the book interesting, moving, etc.).

- Exposition (the time and place in which the story takes place)
 - Identify each accurately
 - Discuss why it is important that the story is set there - an author's choices are intentional.
- Major characters
 - Descriptions of major characters
 - Discussion of how they are characterized (how are they portrayed? How are they developed?) by the author with text evidence (with the page number) as text evidence to support your claims
- Major literary elements
 - Identify the theme and discuss how it is developed throughout the work
 - Identify any important symbols and how they are used throughout the work
 - Note anything that stands out to you that the author does as a writer, like word choice, sentence structure, dialog, painting a picture for the reader using words, etc. Describe what you notice and what effect it has, and be sure to note the page number so we can discuss it in class
- Important plot points
 - We don't need to write down every single thing that happens while we are reading
 - Instead, we want to identify and summarize **key** plot points
 - Discuss their importance (what did the author do, why did they do it, what effect does it have on the reader, what effect does it have on the plot)
- Key quotations
 - Sometimes, when you're reading, something that a character says or a line that the author writes will feel very important.
 - When you come upon these, write them down and include their page numbers
 - Discuss what is important about them (what makes them significant? What prompted you to write them down?)

3. Prepare a 500 word written response that answers this question using evidence from the text:

To understand a text is to understand the time and place in which it was written as well as the time and place in which it is set. To what extent is this text a product of the culture (the values and beliefs of a society) in which it was written and in which it is set?

Hint: use these questions to guide your thinking if you're unsure about how to discuss culture: Culture is the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group. In what way can your chosen text represent culture? How do you think the author uniquely presents this culture? Does he/she include unique setting descriptions, do they include character actions, do they include unique relationships or conflicts?

Grading

Summer reading notes are the first grade in the grade book. Make sure that you have engaged with your novel in the comprehensive ways that are required in IB coursework and that your final product represents that. You will be graded using this exact rubric, so you can set yourself up for success from the first day that you begin your work:

A	B	C	D	E
Includes all of the required elements at an exemplary level	Includes all of the required elements at a complete but basic level	Includes most of the required elements at a complete level	Includes some of the required elements at a complete level	Includes none of the required elements

Contact your IB1 teacher, Ben Neal, with questions at bneal@portageps.org.