



Dear Students,

We hope this letter finds you well and excited for the upcoming summer break. As you prepare for your first year of the International Baccalaureate (IB) English program, we wanted to provide you with some guidance and resources to help you make the most of your summer and set you up for success in Grade 11.

Reading List for Year 1:

Over the summer, we encourage you to begin exploring the texts we will study in your first year. While we will have class copies of all the required texts available for borrowing, we highly recommend that you consider purchasing your own copies (used bookstores and/or amazon used online are great options). Owning your own books has several advantages:

1. **Personal Annotation:** You can make notes, highlight important passages, and annotate directly in your book, which can significantly enhance your understanding and analysis of the text.
2. **Convenience:** Having your own copy means you can read and review the material at your convenience without worrying about returning it on time.
3. **Long-term Access:** You will have the books as a resource for future reference, whether for assignments, exams, or personal enrichment.

These works will be central to our discussions and assignments, so familiarizing yourself with them now will give you a strong foundation:

1. **Joy Harjo Poetry** - Pay attention to how she uses imagery, storytelling, and connections to nature to explore identity, culture, spirituality, and personal experience.
2. **Indigenous Novel Study (TBD)** - Focus on how the author uses characters, setting, and storytelling to explore Indigenous perspectives, culture, identity, history, and relationships to community and the land.
3. **Macbeth by William Shakespeare** - Immerse yourself in this classic tragedy, exploring themes of ambition, power, and fate.
4. **Candide by Voltaire** - Enjoy the satirical adventures of Candide, as he navigates through a world of philosophical absurdities.
5. **Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert** - Explore the intricate details of this realist novel, which delves into the life and dreams of Emma Bovary.

Familiarize Yourself with Literary Elements:

Understanding the elements of poetry, prose, and drama is crucial for analyzing and appreciating literature. Please refer to the attached document, which outlines these elements in detail. Spend some time reviewing and familiarizing yourself with these concepts.

Master Proper Essay Structure:

In IB English, you will be required to write various types of essays, including one work analysis and two work compare/contrast essays. Practice structuring your essays with clear introductions, well-developed body paragraphs, and insightful conclusions. Ensure that you can effectively analyze literary elements and compare themes across different works.

Be an Active Reader:

No matter what you choose to read this summer, strive to be an active reader. Here are some tips:

- **Read What You Enjoy:** Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or graphic novels, read what interests you. The goal is to cultivate a love for reading.
- **Ask Questions:** As you read, question the text. What is the author trying to convey? How do the characters develop? What themes are emerging?
- **Evaluate:** Reflect on your reading experience. Did you like the text? Why or why not? Be prepared to provide evidence to support your opinions. Engaging critically with what you read will enhance your analytical skills.

Enjoy the Summer!

Finally, make sure to enjoy your summer break. Spend time reading outside, connect your personal experiences with the texts you explore, and take this opportunity to relax and recharge. The more you can relate to and enjoy what you read, the richer your understanding and appreciation of literature will become.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and discovery with all of you. Have a fantastic summer, and happy reading!

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