

Summer Reading 2022

Incoming Junior IB Students

IB Literature 3 and IB Language and Literature 3

Introduction

Your summer assignment is a chance for you to read a variety of texts, explore ideas, and write in response to what you are reading and thinking. The assignment has three parts and all work is due the second Friday of the year: Friday, August 19th. Contact Mrs. Angela Madden (maddena@leonschools.net) if you have any questions.

I have linked to all the texts that are available online, but in some cases, you may need to go the library to get a copy of a novel. There are also additional links provided throughout to help you along the way.

As Voltaire said, “Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too,” Enjoy the privilege of reading great texts. Enjoy the writing process. In short, have a great summer!

Part 1 – Organizing

Text: [How I Take Notes](#) and [10 Note-Taking Tips](#)

After watching Study Tee’s notes system, I want you to think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used for this summer and throughout the year.

Assignment: Get a notebook of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.) We will use this notebook to create notes for the major works that we study, so find one that you really like.

Why it is important: The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy; the most important aspects are not always salient. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. This notebook will serve as a means to consolidate what you have learned throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make. Make it your own. Decorate it if you like or keep it clean and clear.

Part 2 – Seeing

Text: [The Nerdwriter Analyzes Edward Hopper’s “Nighthawks”](#)

Evan Puschak has his own [YouTube channel \(Nerdwriter\)](#) in which he offers video essays. These essays range from art, to film, to politics, to literature. He is thoughtful, well-researched, and has a keen sense of timing and audience awareness. In this video essay he analyzes one of the iconic 20th century American paintings, “Nighthawks.” Pay attention to not only what he sees, but also notice the biographical and historical context he weaves into his analysis. I admire how he uses both images and words to teach you about the painting.

Assignment: For your first set of StudyTee notes, I want you to write TWO pages. Choose a work of art that has meaning to you. It can be a work of literature. It can be a painting. It can be a song. It can be any creative endeavor that has some wonderful artistry. I want you to analyze that work of art on a similar level to Evan Puschak (the Nerdwriter). If you look at his show notes on the YouTube page for the “Nighthawks” video essay, he has done a fair amount of research. I want you to do the same. In your notes, find an organized way to explain its [artistic merit](#) and value. Don’t just provide a summary of what it is, analyze how it operates and why it is important.

Why it is important: I want you to use your notes to enrich your personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary. For that to happen, these notes should be so much more sophisticated than a summary. They

should reveal the complexity of the work of art. You have to articulate not only what it means to you, you should also have a broader appreciation for the artist, the cultural and historical context in which it was created, and how the work has transcended time and remains relevant.

Part 3 – Reading

Text 1: Leo Babauta’s “Why I Read (+ a Dozen Book Recommendations)” *The text of this article is on page 3 of this document.

Assignment: Write a page of notes about your relationship with reading. Share an honest assessment of the role that it plays in your life. Think about how you would conceptualize and categorize the impact reading has had on you. I value honesty over flattery. If reading is not your thing, say it. If you love it, then let me know. I don’t care so much which side you take. More important than what you choose is the truth of your reflection. I want to read about why you feel the way that you do. I want to get to know you as a reader.

Why it is important: This is the first step in me getting to know you as a reader. What’s more important than that?

Text 2: [Any novel on this list](#) or [this one](#)

Assignment: Read any novel on the National Book Award list or the Pulitzer Prize winners or finalists for fiction from the past 20 years. You can click on the titles to learn a bit more about each book. It is worth your time. There are so many great books on these two lists to choose from and I want you to pick a book that you will enjoy.

Then create THREE pages of notes about your book. How you organize those three pages is up to you. I know that this is vague and undefined, but look at it another way. I am empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All I’m asking you to do is create three interesting pages of notes about your reading experience. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless. It is up to you to make it awesome!

Why it is important: A mature thinker chooses and develops his or her own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. I respect your ability to make connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, and personal experiences and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed my expectations. So, do it!

Text 3: [Poetry Foundation Poem of the Day](#)

Assignment: Poetry Foundation features a poem each day from a diverse list of present and past poems. Choose TWO poems from any dates over the summer (5/26-8/5) and create notes for each. The notes should focus on an [analysis](#) of each poem. Look for parts that are interrelated. Find the individual aspects of the poem that give it meaning. [Here](#) is a good example of a complex analysis of a popular middle school poem. A more sophisticated analysis of an e.e. Cummings poem can be found [here](#).

Why it is important: Thoughtful readers write to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately by selecting apt and specific evidence, organizing the evidence into broader ideas, and conveying the impact of its meaning.

Why I Read (+ a Dozen Book Recommendations)

By Leo Babauta

In the quiet morning hours, or as I fade off to sleep at night, I cuddle up with a good novel.

This book is *my* world, my quiet time away from the din and discordance of the everyday world, but it's also a way to explore the world in imaginative new ways.

There's nothing that beats it.

I get lost in worlds wholly created by an author, imagined but containing truths about life, incisively commenting about life, reproducing it in beautiful new ways, putting me in the mind of another human being, grabbing my heart and dragging it through the thrill of falling in love or the dull numbness of divorce or the fear of being found out, giving me the power of flight or omniscience or magic, confessing about guilty deeds and crimes and affairs, taking me into richly reimagined periods of history, helping me time travel and space travel and regular travel into new lands, showing me how other people live in helplessness, in slavery, in squalor, in power and luxury, in prostitution and presidency, making the mundane seem magical and the magical seem possible.

This is why I read.

Reading has been shown to [make us more empathetic people](#), but it also helps us learn to sit still for longer without distractions, and gives us a break from the pull of smartphones and the online world.

Reading is one of my favorite habits, and though once in awhile I slip away from it, I always come back.

Leo's Book Recommendations

If you'd like to read more fiction, here's a list of some of my favorite books to get you started (in no means comprehensive):

- *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett (start with this, but all of her books are great)
- *City of Thieves*, by David Benioff
- *Motherless Brooklyn*, by Jonathan Lethem (start with this, but all his books are great)
- *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach
- *Everything is Illuminated*, by Jonathan Safran Foer (all his stuff is great)
- *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*, by Aimee Bender
- *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery (then, *Gourmet Rhapsody*)
- *Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole
- *The Blind Assassin*, by Margaret Atwood (all her books are excellent)
- *Shibumi*, by Trevanian
- *The Discworld Series*, by Terry Pratchett
- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series, by Douglas Adams

I also love books by Kurt Vonnegut, Nick Hornby, Kazuo Ishiguro, Haruki Murakami, Raymond Chandler, William Gibson, Stephen King and John D. Macdonald.