

11th Grade IB Summer Experiences/Reading Recommendations

Welcome to IB Literature! Over the summer, IB Literature students will read academically challenging texts to help avoid the “summer effect” of academic loss. Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills and, ideally, see academic gain when we return in August. By asking student to read during summer break/non-instructional time, we also hope to encourage students to become life long readers and learners. Along these lines, being an IB student means being well-rounded and having experiences that shed light on culture rather than only relying on academic reading for our understandings. Some of these experiences are plays, but there are others since often understanding literature goes beyond words on a page and involves delving into humanity. When you return to class after summer, **there will be discussions, reflections, and an essay on your reading and experience(s)**, but you will also benefit from these readings and experiences while studying our works throughout next year.

For the reading assignment and recommendations, besides just reading, it is also recommended that you annotate the work. Annotating allows a reader to be careful and precise with their reading: patterns become noticed, connections are acknowledged, and literary techniques an author uses are recognized. For the experience recommendations, besides just experiencing, it is also recommended that you write a journal entry reflecting on that experience. Journaling and reflection creates an understanding of how our thoughts become words and allows you to notice details that you might not have consciously recognized as you were flooded with all of the other sensory information of the experience. Going into the experience, it would be a good idea to schedule a time when you plan to reflect on that experience. Finally, I would also suggest not going through either the reading or experiences alone. If you include your friends or family, often they will grant you a perspective you may not have at first glance and vice versa. Lastly, enjoy. This is meant to enhance your life and understanding of it, not to drag it down.

Required Reading: *The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende*

Required Experience: At least one cultural experience (examples listed below).

Additional Recommendations: In addition, I would suggest that a student read at least one of the additional titles and complete at least another of the experiences.

Recommended Titles

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Maus I and II by Art Spiegelman

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

The Scarlett Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Visit a historical museum or historical landmark

Visit the Nelson-Atkins or another art gallery

Eat at Blue Nile Café, Awaze, Elsa’s Ethiopian Restaurant, El Porton, Pulgarcito, Jerusalem Café, Holy Land Café, Tasso’s, or another legitimate authentic ethnic restaurant to try food you may not typically try.

Experiences

Shakespeare in the Park: *Much Ado About Nothing* (June 12th-July 1st and FREE @ Southmoreland Park)

Watch a foreign film (preferably with subtitles)