

Rockville HS English Department IB English 1 (Language A 1) GRADE 12 Summer Reading Assignment

Thoughtful analysis and critical reading are essential skills for every course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

1. Read the following work by the first day of school:

The Sorrows of War by Bao Ninh (World Literature)

This work is available through the RHS English department (for summer check-out) or at local book stores, public libraries, or the RHS Media Center. It is extremely helpful to annotate and/or highlight as you read. Write notes in the margins or use post-it notes for the books that you borrow from the library or English Department.

Complete the following assignments:

1. Read the novel carefully.
2. Plan your **World Literature Assignment 2** (externally assessed). Read the choices carefully. Choose which (A, B, or C) you plan to use and begin brainstorming and planning. **On Tuesday, September 1, 2009**, you must hand in solid evidence of advanced planning. Because choices vary, that evidence will vary. If you are doing a creative paper, give me a brief “Statement of Intent” AND a brief excerpt/example of your piece. If you are choosing options A or C, turn in a description of what you will write (including works and/or passages) as well as a thesis statement and some sort of main idea outline. Think and plan!
3. Visit the Vietnam Memorial downtown, or the Maya Lin exhibit at the Corcoran, and/or view a movie about Vietnam. Write a one page reflection on the experience: consider your personal reaction as well as connections to world events, other literature and film.

Some film choices: *The Anderson Platoon*, *Hamburger Hill*, *Platoon*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Cease Fire*, *Vietnam –The Ten Thousand Day War*, *Boys in Company C*, *Bat 21*, *84 Charlie Mopic*, *Vietnam - A Television History*, *Dear America—Letters Home from Vietnam*, *Siege of Firebase Gloria*

World Literature Assignment 2 Choices

A: Comparative Study (Works: 1 WL and 1 Language A1)

- Assignment 2a is a comparative study based on an aspect of one World Literature work and one Language A1 work, chosen from any part of the school’s syllabus. You may not use either of the two WL works you used for your first WL paper (*Medea*, *The Visit*, *Like Water for Chocolate*).
- You did this type of assignment already, so you know what it involves.

B: Imaginative or Creative Assignment (Works: 1WL or 1 WL and 1 Language A1)

- Assignment B is an imaginative or creative piece of writing based on one World Literature work (probably *Sorrows of War*!) OR a combination of a World Lit work and a Language A1 work, chosen from any part of the syllabus.
- You will apply the principles or techniques of literary criticism or appreciation in an informed, imaginative manner.

The Statement of Intent

A brief statement of intent must immediately precede the body of this type of assignment and must include a brief explanation of all of the following:

- The work(s) on which the assignment will be based
- The nature of the task to be engaged in, including considerations such as audience, register, form
- The aspects or elements of the work(s) on which the candidate intends to focus
- How the candidate intends to explore these aspects or elements

The statement of intent must be included in the wordcount. The length of the statement will depend on the nature of the piece attempted and should, normally, not exceed **500** words. However, where the assignment takes the form of a single piece of writing, such as a short poem, the statement may be longer than the body of the assignment and longer than 500 words. Whatever the length of the assignment itself, the total number of words must be between 1000 and 1500 words.

Suggestions

There are many possibilities for creative approaches to World Literature assignments which, while giving the candidates an opportunity to exercise imagination and ingenuity, bring them to a deeper understanding of the work(s) being explored and to an increased appreciation of the writer.

- The diary of a character accompanied by critical comment by the candidate.
- An exercise in which the candidate turns the ‘story’ of a portion of it into another form such as dramatic monologue, biblical parable, folk tale or myth.
- A critic’s review of a dramatic interpretation/performance.
- An editorial objecting to censorship or exclusion of a work from a school syllabus.
- The creation of dramatic monologues that play the self-perception of the characters against the view of other characters or the author.
- A transcription either of an imaginary interview with the author about the work in question or of a conversation between two authors about their respective works.
- A postscript to a novel, or an extra chapter.
- An additional scene for a play.

C: Detailed Study (1 WL work)

If extracts are chosen for analysis or commentary they should not be included in the word count, but copies must be attached to the assignment when submitted for assessment.

Approaches

- **A formal essay.**
- **Analysis of a key passage.** The most important word here is ‘key.’ The passage for study, whether a paragraph, a page, a chapter, or an extract from a poem, should have major significance for any of a variety of explorations that the candidate might choose to make, for example, prose or poetic style, character study, plot development or theme. The reason why the candidate has chosen the passage should be briefly explained and the body of the assignment should explain the significance of the passage to the larger work from which it has been taken.
- **Analysis of two key passages.** Two significant passages from the same work could be selected in order to explore, for example, contrasting prose styles, descriptive method, character

presentation and a range of other aspects. The candidate needs to justify briefly the pivotal nature of the passages chosen, and to demonstrate their particular similarities and differences which the candidate considers interesting.

- **Commentary on an extract**, approximately 30 lines. Candidates should justify briefly their selection of the particular extract; the body of the assignment should explore how language, imagery, organization of ideas, and stylistic and thematic aspects work in the passage.

Any questions? You can reach me by email (eventually) during the summer.

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One more thing: I highly recommend that you write at least rough drafts of your **college essays** during the summer. Senior year is crazy, and you'll be glad that you did it. We do NOT have college essays as an assignment in class, but I will be happy to assist anyone who would like help.

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Flather