

**Rockville HS English Department**  
**IB English 1 (Language A 1) GRADE 11 Summer Reading Assignment**  
[kristen\\_r\\_flather@mcpsmd.org](mailto:kristen_r_flather@mcpsmd.org)

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 Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (Category: GROUPS OF WORKS)**

If possible, try to secure your own copy of this novel. It is also available at local book stores, public libraries, the RHS Media Center, or the RHS English department (for summer check-out). 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.

2. Complete the following writing assignments.
3. You have a choice of format:
  - A. Put your responses to the assignments below in a **marbled composition book**. Avoid using spirals or notebooks as they can fall apart. **Handwrite** your responses.
  - B. Or: Type your responses, standard 12 font, double-spaced. Turn in separately.

Plan ahead. Do not try to complete the reading and the writing the night before school starts!

**ASSIGNMENTS – to be collected on Tuesday, September 1, 2009**

1. **Assignment 1** – Essay Response (multi-paragraph). Respond to **ONE** of the following prompts.

In many works of literature, a physical journey – the literal movement from one place to another – plays a central role. Discuss the physical journey revealed in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary. (AP English Literature exam – 2006, form B)

OR

“A writer conveys not only experiences but a whole world in which these are possible.” With respect to The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, discuss whether or not the author has created a coherent, imagined “world.”

(adapted from the IB English Language A 1 exam – 2006)

2. **Assignment 2** - Commentary Response (multi-paragraph)

Write a commentary on a passage of your choice from this novel. Include a typed (or xeroxed copy of the passage) in your journal. (**Note:** You can find the full text of Huck Finn online and do a copy/paste.) Follow the commentary format that we have used throughout grades 9 and 10. After identifying the passage that you plan to use (20-25 lines), annotate and color-code your passage. Chunk the passage into sections (these sections should help you to organize the paragraphs of your commentary). Clarify the central focus. Discuss how language creates meaning in the passage. Remember it is not enough just to paraphrase or identify literary features. An effective commentary shows the relationship between meaning and language.

**Read and follow the accompanying rubrics.**