



Dear IB English Learners,

As summer approaches, many of you will be thinking about vacations, sunshine, and a well-deserved break from the rigors of the year. However, there is still one order of business that needs to be considered: summer reading. From now until August 31, you will be required to read two works and complete some assignments.

Everyone is to read James Joyce's collection of short stories, *Dubliners*. While reading *Dubliners*, pay attention to the usual, boring, literary garbage for each short story. This includes, but is not limited to: plot, characterization, style, theme, etc. I would also like for you to answer the following questions:

What ties the stories together to create a unified whole?

How and to what extent does one's birthplace determine who one becomes and what one does?

How is freedom affected by the conventions peculiar to a society?

The responses to these questions should be in complete sentences and contain multiple examples from multiple stories. Do NOT ask how long they have to be. Your work ethic and level of insight will determine the length. You will be assessed on *Dubliners* shortly after you return to school on August 31, 2009, and you may use your book and its marked passages for that assessment. You should also be prepared to deliver an oral commentary on any passage from the text.

The second work is a collection (10-15) of poetry from a poet of your choosing. You should choose a poet that interests you, you've always wanted to read, and has some sort of literary significance. It should not be someone you have read extensively previously, in or out of school. Expand your knowledge and horizons. While reading this collection of works, you should note the literary techniques and elements that make the poems significant. Doesn't this sound like a good essay for when we get back? Your poet selection MUST be emailed to me by June 18. It will be on a first come, first serve basis. No two students can study the same poet!

Finally (is this getting long?), you will be required to complete a written commentary on a poem or a prose passage. Please choose ONE of the two pieces of literature provided. The rubric is also provided. This commentary will also be due on the day of your return, August 31. You should also be EXTREMELY familiar with the components of the rubric.

Above all, have a great summer! Be fun, exciting, and safe! Enjoy what could be your last summer of living at home before you begin a new chapter in your life. Why should you focus on enjoyment? Because when you return in August, you will begin your final year of high school. Although exciting, this final year also includes the IB Language A1 World Literature Assignment Two, the Oral Commentary, and the Language A1 Exam. Enjoy the calm before the storm, and do so with some good books. I look forward to working with you during your final year of high school!

Sincerely,

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Please feel free to email at any point throughout the summer with any questions or concerns you may have.