



WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL

Montgomery County Public Schools
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Dear IB English Students,

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 25, 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?

These questions should be answered as you're reading and should include textual support from a variety of different stories. **You will also be assessed on *Dubliners* shortly after you return to school on August 25, 2008**, and you may or may not 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 an autobiography of your choosing**. You should choose a story that interests you, one you can learn something about, and has some sort of literary significance. It should not be something you have read previously, in or out of school. Expand your knowledge and horizons. **While reading your autobiography, you should note the literary techniques and elements that make it different from normal, fictional prose.** Doesn't this sound like a good essay for when we get back? You will be assessed on your new knowledge of the person and the work upon your return to school.

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 25.**

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,

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

Possible Autobiographies: You are not required to choose from the following list. These are merely **suggestions**. All decisions must be approved! Once they are approved, it is a **FINAL** decision.

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin – Benjamin Franklin

Gandhi An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth – Mohandas

Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi, Mahadev H. Desai, and Sissela Bok

Autobiography of a Face – Lucy Grealy

Autobiography of Malcolm X – Malcolm X

The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. – Martin Luther King, Jr. and Clayborne

Carson

Home: A Memoir of My Early Years – Julie Andrews

Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member – Sanyika Shakur

Miles – Miles Davis

Cash: The Autobiography – Johnny Cash

The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt – Eleanor Roosevelt

Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of The Dalai Lama – Lama Dalai

Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie – Andrew Carnegie

The Autobiography of Mark Twain – Mark Twain and Charles Neider

Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography – Zora Neale Hurston

The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man – James Joyce and Seamus Deane