

IB English 11
Summer Reading 2008

Hello new IB English students!

IB English 11 promises to be a rigorous yet rewarding course. I hope you are looking forward to next year as much as I am. To prepare you for the course I would like you to complete the following summer reading assignments:

1. **Read two non-fiction books.** You may select any 2 books, but stay away from biographies and auto-biographies. I've listed some suggestions below, but select books on topics and events that are interesting to you.

Suggested titles:

- *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer
- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
- *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley
- *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan
- *Manhunt: The 12-day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson
- *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara
- *1776* by David McCullough
- *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson
- *Flyboys: The True Story of Courage* by James Bradley

2. **Answer one of the following essay prompts**, using the non-fiction books you selected. The prompts are IB Exam release questions and should be answered in 3 or 4 pages. Email me your response by Monday, August 20th.
 - Literature admits conflicts between good and good, as well as between good and evil. Which two works would you choose to demonstrate this generalization, and why might both types of conflict be important?
 - "What is noticed has been made more noticeable." How do writers of prose, other than the novel and short story [non-fiction], attract and sustain the reader's interest? Compare two works in your answer.
 - Prose other than fiction sometimes uses techniques that we associate with fiction, such as anecdote, character portrayal, suspense and the like, or they may rely on others. What effective techniques have been employed by writers in your study?
 - Similarities or differences in gender behaviors often add complexity to literary works. How have any of these aspects affected the writing that you have studied?

3. Commentary is an important aspect of IB English, and it is a skill that we spend time developing. **Read and annotate as desired the provided packet of poems and commentaries.** Have a written response to the question 'What is a commentary?' prepared by the first day of class. Develop your answer from the examples provided.

Required Materials for 2006-2007:

- Colored pencils - 12 color package minimum. Target sells a 72 pencil set for about \$5.
- Highlighters in 4 colors
- Something to keep as a journal (spiral notebook, composition book, etc)
- Notebook for notes, etc

Optional Materials for 2006-2007:

- A good grammar reference. I suggest *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* is also good.
- Your own copies of the books you'll be reading next year. It is helpful to have your own copies to annotate and work with, particularly when we start working on your diploma assignments. The texts we'll work with next year are *The House of the Spirits (Isabel Allende)*, *The Sorrow of War (Bao Ninh)*, *Broken April (Ismail Kadare)*, *The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho)*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)*, *Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe)* and *Light in August (William Faulkner)*.

Enjoy your summer and take the time to do things you won't have time for once school starts again. The upcoming year will be a challenging one, but also rewarding and beneficial and, maybe at times, fun. Enjoy your summer assignments, take the time to do them well and if you have any questions or comments during the summer please don't hesitate to email me at David_W_Sampselle@mcpsmd.org .

Sincerely,

David Sampselle
IB English 11