

IB 12 Summer Reading Assignment

If you are entering 12th grade IB English for the 2012-13 school year, you are required to read the following over summer:

1. Selected poems by Elizabeth Bishop: “The Fish,” “Filling Station,” “One Art.”
2. A sophisticated prose work (fiction or non-fiction) of your choice.

Bishop Poems

On the following Websites, you can find the poems and some information about them:

- “The Fish”: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/virtualit/poetry/fish_elements.html
- “Filling Station” and “One Art”:
<http://www.poets.org/viewall.php/varType/poems/prmOrderBy/>
- Information on Bishop’s poetry:
http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/a_f/bishop/bishop.htm

Prose Work of Your Choice (Fiction or Non-fiction)

The prose work must be a minimum of 150 pages in length. By “sophisticated” we mean a work that is intended for an educated adult audience and is written with a distinctive voice or style. In other words, it’s the kind of work that, to be understood, requires a close reading of its language.

The following Websites list some suitable titles. These, though, are only suggestions.

- The Modern Library list of the top 100 novels and top 100 non-fiction:
<http://www.modernlibrary.com/top-100>. If you use this site, we recommend choosing from the Board’s list.
- Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists: <http://www.pulitzer.org/bycat>
- Booker Prize winners: <http://www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/archive>
- National Endowment for the Humanities recommendations for college-bound students: <http://edsitement.neh.gov/edsitements-reading-list-college-bound-students>

Tasks

For the Bishop Poems

Mark up the poems, identifying interesting language and aspects of the writing style that help convey the meaning. You will write a commentary essay on one of the poems early in the semester. You will also submit your mark-up of each poem.

For the Prose Work of Your Choice

Select two stylistically rich passages (approximately 150 words each)—one from the first half, the other from the second half of the work. Copy each passage on a separate sheet. Then mark up each passage, identifying interesting language and aspects of the writing style that help convey the meaning. Early in the semester, you will use your analyses of these passages for an activity on commentary. You will also submit your mark-ups.