

**Rockville HS English Department**  
**IB English A Literature**

**GRADE 12 Summer Reading Assignment**

Thoughtful analysis and critical reading are essential skills for every course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

**Read the following work by the first day of school:**

**The Sorrow of War by Bao Ninh** (Works in translation)

This work is available through the RHS English department (for summer check-out) or at local book stores, public libraries, or the RHS Media Center.

Complete the following assignments:

1. Read the novel carefully.
2. As you read, annotate carefully either by using sticky notes, writing in a purchased copy, or taking separate notes. See **rubric**. This novel is not written chronologically, and you will be writing a paper on it, your third paper (along with the ones for *Medea* and *The Visit*), one of which you will choose to perfect for the externally assessed Written Assignment. It is extremely hard to look through an entire novel searching for a particular scene when it could be anywhere, so take careful notes!
3. Contribute to a discussion. Go to [schoolology.com](http://schoolology.com) and click on "Enter code," then paste in this access code: X5ZW6-QJC2F Create your profile. Then find the discussions and add comments and responses as you read. There are four discussions, for four sections of the novel.
4. After you finish the novel, write down three questions that you feel could be developed into intriguing papers about this novel. Put thought into this. (15 completion points)
5. Visit the Vietnam Memorial downtown and/or view a movie about Vietnam. Write a one page reflection on the experience: consider your personal reaction as well as connections to world events, The Sorrow of War, other literature such as *The Things They Carried*, and film. Some film choices: *The Anderson Platoon*, *Hamburger Hill*, *Platoon* (Warning: This one's brutal), *Full Metal Jacket*, *Cease Fire*, *Vietnam –The Ten Thousand Day War*, *Apocalypse Now* (This is a loose adaptation of Joseph Conrad's novel *Heart of Darkness*, which we will read second semester), *Boys in Company C*, *Bat 21*, *84 Charlie Mopic*, *Vietnam - A Television History*, *Dear America— Letters Home from Vietnam*, *Siege of Firebase Gloria*, *The Fog of War*

Any questions? You can reach me by email (eventually) during the summer.

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One more thing: I highly recommend that you write rough drafts of your **college essays** during the summer. Senior year is crazy, and you'll be glad that you did it. We do not have college essays as an assignment in class, but I will be happy to assist anyone who would like help.

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Flather

**Rubrics on back.**

### Annotations/Notes Rubric

	Level of Insight	Completeness
<b>Smiley Face</b>	Annotations reveal an understanding of the complexities in the text. Setting, characterization, plot, and use of literary devices are analyzed. 20	Entire novel is covered, with no major lapses. (Although there may be pages with no annotations.) 20
<b>Not bad</b>	Understanding of novel is clearly indicated, but with less insight than above. 15	Whole sections lack annotations. 15
<b>Is summer over?</b>	Little thought or limited to paraphrase Underlining only 10	Only skimpy annotations throughout book, or only partially annotated 10

TOTAL: 40 completion points

### Discussion rubric

Quality of insight 20  
Quantity/breadth of book covered 20

TOTAL: 40 completion points

### Three question rubric

Questions have an intriguing, thought-provoking quality, with room for exploration. Make these questions something which clearly interests YOU, a thread you'd like to explore.  
5 points each, 15 total **formative** points

### Reflection on film or monument rubric

clear personal reaction 10  
thoughtful connections are made 10

TOTAL: 20 completion points

Assignments are due Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the second day of school.  
All these completion points are 10% of your grade for first quarter.