
Foothill High School
2019 Summer Reading Assignment—English Higher Level 2 (IB)

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Welcome to English HL 2, the senior IB literature class at Foothill High School. I look forward to working and learning with you in the upcoming school year. English HL 2 is a demanding, college-level course, and I expect that you will meet this challenge with alacrity, integrity, and commitment.

As you prepare for your senior literature class, please know that the most effective way to improve your writing is by reading broadly from diverse works of literary merit. (Similarly, writing often and thinking like a writer will help your close-reading skills.) Therefore, in addition to your required summer reading, you should read several additional selections of your choosing. Summer is the opportune time to read that novel you've heard everyone raving about but never had the time to read yourself. Summer reading titles may be available from local public libraries, the Foothill High School library, Barnes & Noble, or any online bookseller.

At the very least, your summer reading will include the following:

- ✓ Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* (2014 revised ed.). Expect a written exam on the advice and insights of this engaging guide to reading literature in the *first week* of class. This book will change the way you read literature, so read it first! You will apply the lessons of this book throughout the school year. You may skip chapters 3 and 7 if you wish--they likely will not help you in our class.

AND

- ✓ *At least* one book from the following list of novels. I encourage you to select a novel that will interest you and hold your attention rather than one that looks "easiest." Please carefully read and annotate your selected novel and be prepared to write a literary analysis essay in the first weeks of class on the book of your choice:

Allende, Isabel	<i>The House of the Spirits</i> (Chile, 1982)
Brontë, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> (England, 1847)
Dostoevsky, Fyodor	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> (Russia, 1866)
Eco, Umberto	<i>The Name of the Rose</i> (Italy, 1980)
Ellison, Ralph	<i>Invisible Man</i> (USA, 1952)
Flaubert, Gustave	<i>Madame Bovary</i> (France, 1856)
Li, Yiyun	<i>The Vagrants</i> (China, 2009)
Roy, Arundhati	<i>The God of Small Things</i> (India, 1997)
wa Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ	<i>A Grain of Wheat</i> (Kenya, 1967)
Wright, Richard	<i>Native Son</i> (USA, 1940)

Additional recommended summer reading includes the following titles:

- ✓ William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White's *The Elements of Style* (4th ed.). This classic writing reference will help you write with clarity and sophistication. If you would like to decrease the likelihood of my throwing your first essay across the room while grading it, you ought to find the hour or two this summer to read Strunk and White's advice. As a reference book, *The Elements of Style* should be read at a trot rather than savored like Shakespeare.
- ✓ Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* (2010, 10th anniversary ed.). Read how the master of the popular horror novel became the writer he is today and how he approaches writing as both craft and career. While mostly a recommendation for those of you interested in creative writing, it is a fascinating mix of memoir and advice book that may help you read literature more like a writer.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

When you've chosen your required summer novel(s) and **prior to reading it (them)**, please indicate your choice(s) on a Google form. *I must have your response before the first day of class.* If you later decide to read a book other than the one you indicated on the Google form, simply submit a new form. You can access the Google form at this address:

<http://tinyurl.com/IBsummerbooks>

Be sure to bring your **annotated** novel(s) to class the first day of school (don't go overboard on the annotations--record your questions, note patterns, and really mark up two or three scenes that strike you as particularly important).