



2017 IB Candidates



IB Language A (English): Literature (Year 1)

You need to procure the following texts to complete your course work.

Required Summer Reading:

1) *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka (ISBN: 978-1557427663)

To assess your reading and benchmark your analytical skills, you will be assessed on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* during the first two weeks of school. Make sure to closely read and annotate the novella using the guidelines suggested by Mortimer Adler (see the back of this handout). Your annotations will be graded based on accuracy, depth, and completion (all pages).

Required Semester Reading: (In addition to the summer reading text, you should purchase the following works before the school year begins so that you will be prepared. **Make sure you procure the correct editions, using the ISBN numbers provided below, or you may end up with the wrong translations.)**

- 1) *The Sound of Waves* by Yukio Mishima (ISBN: 978-0679752684)**
- 2) *Four Major Plays* by Henrik Ibsen (ISBN: 978-0199536191)**
- 3) *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (ISBN: 978-0553213607)**
- 4) *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (ISBN: 978-0743273565)**
- 5) *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (ISBN: 978-0679745587)**
- 6) *Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich (ISBN: 978-0061787423)**

Annotating a Text From *How to Read a Book* (Mortimer Adler & Charles Van Doren)

If you have the habit of asking a book questions as you read, you are a better reader than if you do not. But . . . merely asking questions is not enough. You have to try to answer them. And although that could be done, theoretically, in your mind only, it is easier to do it with a pencil in your hand. The pencil then becomes the sign of your alertness while you read.

When you buy a book, you establish a property right in it, just as you do in clothes or furniture when you buy and pay for them. But the act of purchase is actually only the prelude to possession in the case of a book. Full ownership of a book only comes when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make yourself a part of it -- which comes to the same thing -- is by writing in it. Why is marking a book indispensable to reading it?

- First, it keeps you awake -- not merely conscious, but wide awake.
- Second, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The person who says he knows what he thinks but cannot express it usually does not know what he thinks.
- Third, writing your reactions down helps you to remember the thoughts of the author.

For this course and for these reasons among others, you will be asked to annotate everything you read. Your book notes should follow this format:

Inside Front Cover: Character list with small space for character summary and for page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

Inside Back Cover: Themes, allusions, images, motifs, key scenes, plot line, epiphanies, etc. List and add page references and/or notes as you read.

Bottom and Side Page Margins: Interpretive notes, questions, and/or remarks that refer to meaning of the page. Markings or notes to tie in with information on the inside back cover.

Top Margins: Plot notes -- a quick few words or phrases which summarize what happens here (useful for quick location of passages in discussion and for writing assignments).

Additional Markings:

_____ underlining: done while or after reading to help locate passages for discussion, essays, or questions. Include a note as to why you underlined the passage for future reference.

* Star only the 10-20 pages that seem most significant to text

[] brackets: done while or after reading to highlight key speeches, descriptions, etc. that are too long to underline easily.