

11th Grade IB Summer Experiences/Reading Recommendations

Welcome to IB Literature! Over the summer, IB Literature students will read academically challenging texts to help avoid the “summer effect” of academic loss. Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills and, ideally, see academic gain when we return in August. By asking students to read during summer break/ non-instructional time, we also hope to encourage students to become lifelong readers and learners.

Along these lines, being an IB student means being well-rounded and having experiences that shed light on culture rather than only relying on academic reading for our understandings. Some of these experiences are plays, but there are others since often understanding literature goes beyond words on a page and involves delving into humanity. When you return to class after summer, **there will be discussions, reflections, and an essay on your reading and experience(s)**, but you will also benefit from these readings and experiences while studying our works throughout next year.

For the reading assignment and recommendations, besides just reading, it is also recommended that you annotate the work. Annotating allows a reader to be careful and precise with their reading: patterns become noticed, connections are acknowledged, and literary techniques an author uses are recognized.

For the experience recommendations, besides just experiencing, it is also recommended that you write a journal entry reflecting on that experience. Journaling and reflection creates an understanding of how our thoughts become words and allows you to notice details that you might not have consciously recognized as you were flooded with all of the other sensory information of the experience. Going into the experience, it would be a good idea to schedule a time when you plan to reflect on that experience. Finally, I would also suggest not going through either the reading or experiences alone. If you include your friends or family, often they will grant you a perspective you may not have at first glance and vice versa. Lastly, enjoy. This is meant to enhance your life and understanding of it, not to drag it down.

Required Reading:

How to Read Literature Like A Professor by Thomas Foster

The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende

Required Experience: At least one cultural experience (examples listed below). Experience should be **NEW** for the student. If eating out, I recommend going with a group, asking the waiter/waitress to order for your table and ask them questions about the foods you're trying.

Additional Recommendations: In addition, I would suggest that a student read at least one of the additional titles and complete at least 2 cultural experiences.

Titles

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
Maus I and II by Art Spiegelman
Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
The Scarlett Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Experiences

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival: *Shakespeare in Love* (June 11th-July 7nd; FREE @ Southmoreland Park)
Watch a foreign film (preferably with subtitles)
Visit a historical museum or historical landmark
Visit the Nelson-Atkins or another art gallery
Eat at Blue Nile Café, Awaze, Elsa's Ethiopian Restaurant, Pulgarcito, Jerusalem Café, Holy Land Café, Tasso's, or another legitimate authentic ethnic restaurant to try food you may not typically try.