

## **12<sup>th</sup> Grade IB Summer Experiences/Reading Recommendations**

Welcome to the beginning of the end. This is the start of what will be many lasts, and this is your last summer reading assignment. If you are enrolled for 12<sup>th</sup> grade IB next year, you should continue to stimulate your mind this summer by reading texts that are challenging so that you do not become mentally stagnant. Also, being an IB student means being well-rounded and having experiences that illuminate the cultures around us rather than simply 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:**                    *The Stranger* by Albert Camus (123 Pages)  
*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (233 Pages)

**Required Experience: At least one cultural experience (examples listed below).**

In addition, I would suggest that a student read at least one of the additional titles and complete at least another of the experiences. (\*Means the title is public domain and readily available for free.)

Titles

*Train to Pakistan* by Khushwant Singh

*Hamlet* by Shakespeare

*The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

\**The Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson* or any other anthology of his works

\**Leaves of Grass* or any Walt Whitman anthology

Any other Poetry Anthologies

Experiences

Watch a foreign film (preferably with subtitles)

Visit a historical museum or historical landmark

Visit the Nelson-Atkins or another art gallery

Eat at Taste of Africa, Awaze, Juballand Grill,

Empanada Madness, Elsa's Ethiopian

Restaurant, Taste of Brazil, ABC Café,

Grunauer, Jerusalem Café, Holy Land Café,

Don Antonio, El Pulgarcito or another

legitimate authentic ethnic restaurant to try

food you may not typically try.