

IB Literature and Performance 2025 Summer Reading

IB Lit and Performance in one year is a lot. During the school year, we will read and perform five texts. However, it is beneficial to have more text choices to use as material on your IB Paper 1 exam, which you will take in May of 2027. You are required, therefore, to read one extra text during the summer - *Jane Eyre* - as well as view an AMAZING stage adaptation. Then, you are ENCOURAGED to read and view any of the extra texts that follow. All of the “extras” will be options for you to write about on your May 2026 exam.

1. Many of the digital resources that follow can be found on an incredible resource we have (thank Dr. Blevins when you see her!) called **Digital Theatre Plus**. [CLICK HERE](#) for login information. (You must be logged in through your DCS account for access.)
2. *NB (nota bene - Italian for note well): Jane Eyre is in the public domain. You may read any digital or hard copy. You may listen to an audiobook. You are encouraged to read supplemental materials such as Sparknotes or the like in order to advance your literary understanding of the novel (but of course these are not a substitute for the real text).*

Part 1: REQUIRED - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

- Read any version.
- Read the Digital Theatre+ Study Guide: [Unlocked Study Guide: *Jane Eyre*](#). You are NOT required to complete the activities (but feel free if it seems fun).
- View this 2015 production ([Act 1](#), [Act 2](#)) by the National Theatre of London. NB: There is one moment where profanity is used in this production, around minute 53.
- Optional - if you just can't get enough, search up Jane Eyre on [DT+](#).
 - View the stage production by Blackeyed Theatre.
 - View the television series by the BBC.
 - View interview videos with the director, designers, actors, and dramaturgs for the Blackeyed Theatre production.
 - View any movie or series version (with a nod from your family).

Part 2: Optional EXTRAS. These would be handy to have as additional choices for the May Paper 1. *One or more of these are encouraged, but completely optional.*

Extra #1: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (novel)

- Read any version.
- Read the Digital Theatre+ Study Guide: [Unlocked Study Guide: *Animal Farm*](#). You are NOT required to complete the activities (but feel free if it seems fun).
- View the National Youth Theatre (UK) production (2021) on [DT+](#).

Extra #2: *Antigone* by Sophocles (play)

- Read any version.
- Read the Digital Theatre+ Study Guide: [Unlocked Study Guide: *Antigone*](#). You are NOT required to complete the activities (but feel free if it seems fun).
- View the BBC production (1986) on [DT+](#).
- Optional - if you just can't get enough, search up *Antigone* on [DT+](#) and view a physical theatre and dystopian future version of the play by Actors of Dionysus on [DT+](#).

Extra #3: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (novel)

- Read any version.
- Read the Digital Theatre+ Study Guide: [Unlocked Study Guide: *Frankenstein*](#). You are NOT required to complete the activities (but feel free if it seems fun).
- View the Blackeyed Theatre production (2022) on [DT+](#). (PUPPETS!)
- Optional - if you just can't get enough, search up *Frankenstein* on [DT+](#) and view interviews with actors, the director, designers, and PUPPETEERS!!!!

Extra #4: *The Container* by Clare Bayley (play)

(THIS IS A CONTEMPORARY TEXT, from 2002. It is short - a one-act. This is a fast way to add another text to your repertoire. It contains sporadic adult language and themes about immigration, so make sure your family gives you the nod.)

- Read this digital copy: [The Container](#).
- Read this essay: [The Container - A Critical Introduction](#) and learn about the immersive production.

- View the production on [DT+](#) (actually inside a shipping container!) by the Young Vic Theatre in London.

Extra #5 *Pipeline* by Dominique Morisseau (play)

(THIS IS A CONTEMPORARY TEXT, from 2018, about a mother dealing with the aftermath of her son's fight at school, and it explores the concept of the "school to prison pipeline". Explicit language is used, so make sure your family gives you the nod.)

- Read this digital copy: [Pipeline](#).
- Read this essay: [Pipeline - A Critical Introduction](#) and learn about the production.
- View the 2021 production on [DT+](#) by the Lincoln Center Theatre (NYC).
- Optional - if you just can't get enough, search up *Pipeline* on [DT+](#) and view video explorations of theme, character, and context in the *Unlocked* Series.

What do I want you to get out of all of this?

Besides extra material for writing Paper 1, I want you to pay particular attention to **how** the novels are adapted in performance, and **how** the plays are more effective in performance. Think about answering the following questions:

- Since they cannot say every word of the novel, what changes are made to adapt the story for the stage?
- How do the productions use visual and audio elements to tell the story?
- How do actors use their body and voice to portray important character traits, thoughts, actions, or experiences?
- How do directors use staging to tell the story? Staging can include the arrangement of the actors on stage (who is where), the movement of the actors on stage, the focus (what the audience is drawn to look at), etc.

What will we have to do with this?

- There will be a discussion and short writing assignment at the start of the school year wherein you can show off all of your knowledge.

HAVE FUN! I can't wait to explore all of these stories and performances with you in August!