

Summer 2026

Dear IB Literature Year 1 Student,

One of the requirements of all students to achieve the highest levels of success from the start of the year is summer reading. We believe in this practice, as it has been shown to continue development of reading comprehension skills, build vocabulary, and broaden reading inventory necessary for the college preparation process.

In IB English A: Literature, you will learn to read like a literary scholar, but have you ever stopped to think: ***Why should we even study literature?*** We'll begin our IB Literature journey exploring this question together. In preparation for your first year of IB English A: Literature, you will select (1) of the following novels, wherein each writer contributes their own perspective to this question.



Tasks:

1. **Read + Annotate:** Read the novel + annotate carefully! Pay particular attention to any key scenes that respond to the question: *Why is literature important?* **Also look for:** characterization techniques, motif development, and symbolism.

2. **In-Class Timed Essay:** During the first week of class, you will write an in-class timed essay on **one** of the prompts below. You will be allowed to use your annotated book, so be sure that your annotations set you up to do well.

Prompts: In your novel, the writer explores the question: *Why is literature important?* How does your writer answer this question? Choose **one** of the following prompts:

1. **Characterization:** Analyze the way your writer develops the main character throughout the novel. How does the writer develop one or more characters to explore the question: *Why is literature important?*
2. **Imagery:** Analyze the way your writer uses one imagery throughout the novel. How does the writer use imagery to explore the question: *Why is literature important?*
3. **Motif:** Analyze the way your writer uses one or multiple motifs in the novel. How does the writer develop a motif to explore the question: *Why is literature important?*

VERY IMPORTANT: Do NOT access SparksNotes, CliffsNotes, ChatGPT, or anyone else's notes!

I want to see what YOU think and I want to get a valid look at YOUR writing and literary thinking ability. This will help us work together to set goals for growth and inform my decisions about appropriate lessons that will help you grow as a literary scholar.

If you have any questions, please contact me at hbojorges@depaulprep.org. Enjoy the novel and have a wonderful summer break!