

# The High School for **Enterprise, Business and Technology**

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## IB English A: Language and Literature Summer Assignment for Seniors

*In all, there are three assignments, and these assignments were designed to ensure not just that you excel in the course, on the exam, but also during your college application process and in college. Each assignment will receive a separate grade for the first marking period of the first semester. So, you must complete all three assignments over the summer and submit them on the first day of class.*



### Required Nonfiction Reading Assignment

Your first assignment is to read and outline the advice given in ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*** by Thomas C. Foster.

You must outline each chapter, noting in your journal the advice and concepts Foster presents. This must be the first assignment in your journal. It is very important that you familiarize yourself with the concepts presented in this book, as it will aid you in your analysis throughout the course, on the exam, and in future literature courses. For your journal, you have the option to type and print it, to type and email it as a document attached or embedded in an email, or to handwrite it in a spiral bound or a marble composition notebook. You can obtain a PDF version of the book at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ew0MuuBY\\_Bsg1jdodpGmZs2As3DNHEbC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ew0MuuBY_Bsg1jdodpGmZs2As3DNHEbC/view?usp=sharing).



### Required Literary Reading and Journal Assignments

An important aspect of your discussions and assessments during the course will focus on the influence of the society in and about which the author is writing. Even though most of the selections are works of fiction, the authors cannot ignore their experiences as they put pen to paper, and it is quite often evident that culture, politics, and values all play a part in an author's attitude toward the subject. Therefore, as you read, and when you complete the follow-up activities in your journal, you should reflect on the role of these influences, i.e. culture, politics, and societal values. You may read as many of the recommended readings as you like, but **you must read at least one of the recommended sets and complete a Reader Response Journal Entry for each book in the set.**

### Reader Response Journal Assignment:

1. Write a synopsis of the text and your reaction to it.
2. Comment on the author's background in relation to the text: What are the author's dates and nationality? What relationship does this information have to the text? Essentially, why is this important to know?
3. Comment on the title's thematic relationship to the text: What is the relationship of the title to the text, if any?
4. Evaluate the effects of the point of view. From what point of view is it told? What is the significance of the author's choice of point of view?
5. Evaluate the theme: How does the author develop the theme of the human condition (e.g. *humans in an unsympathetic world*)? How do characters' struggles and choices in handling those challenges reflect and advance the theme?

### **Recommended Set 1: The American Dream**

1. "To A Mouse" by Robert Burns (poem)
2. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (novel)
3. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (play)
4. *Death of A Salesman* by Arthur Miller (play)
5. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (novel)
6. *A Street Car Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams (play)

### **Recommended Set 2: Post-Colonialism**

7. *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (novel)
8. *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (novel)
9. "White Man's Burden" by Rudyard Kipling (poem)
10. "A Far Cry from Africa" by Derek Walcott (poem)
11. *Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (novel)
12. *Lilies of the Field* by William Barrett

### **Recommended Set 3: British Feminist Classics**

13. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (novel)
14. "Yellow Wall Paper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (short story)
15. *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (novel)
16. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (novel)

### **Recommended Set 4: Shakespeare Classics**

17. *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (play)
18. *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare (play)
19. *Othello* by William Shakespeare (play)
20. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard (play)

### **Recommended Set 5: Classic Greek Drama**

21. *Oedipus at Colonus* by Sophocles (play)
22. *Antigone* by Sophocles (play)
23. *Medea* by Euripides (play)



### **College Essay Writing Assignment**

In an effort to assist you in the college application process, it is a prerequisite that over the summer you complete your college application essays for the colleges of your choice and/or for the common application. You must then **submit your college essays on the first day of class as an email attachment or embedded in the email for both review and a grade.**

**Note:** If ever you need help or feedback at any stage of the college writing process or with any part of the summer reading and journal assignments, please feel free to email me at [ngronado@ebtbrooklyn.com](mailto:ngronado@ebtbrooklyn.com).

Enjoy your reading and your summer!

Ms. G.