

Dear Students of IB English A Literature Year 2 Higher & Standard Levels:

Congratulations on the successful completion of the first year of IB English A Literature and welcome to the second phase of your IB English program.

In preparation for the upcoming academic year, please **purchase the following texts:**

<u>Standard & Higher Level:</u>	Achebe, Chinua Conrad, Joseph Woolf, Virginia	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> <i>Heart of Darkness</i> <i>To the Lighthouse</i>
<u>Higher Level Only:</u>	Morrison, Toni	<i>Song of Solomon</i>

These works form the basis for the course's study of **Prose (The Novel & Short Story)** and comprise Part 3 of the IB English A Literature Syllabus, namely THE EXAM WORKS for May 2020.

The Summer Assignment

1. You **must** read Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*.

2. **General Instructions to be followed for both novels:**

It is important that you keep notes, annotate your texts, highlight significant passages, use post-its or adopt your own system of recording your observations as you read.

3. **Paper 2 Practice:**

After reading the novels, you must write a 2,000-word essay answering the following question:

“Successful characterization involves taking the reader to the heart, to the inner core, of an imagined person.” Discuss by what means and what degree of success Joseph Conrad and Virginia Woolf have tried to “take you to the heart” of their characters in *Heart of Darkness* and *To the Lighthouse*.

You must base your answer on **BOTH** novels and compare and contrast these works in response to the above question. You need to support your ideas with specific textual references. **The assignment is due the first week of class in September 2019.** You will also be required to upload the essay on www.turnitin.com. Before writing the essay:

- Review the “Analyzing the Novel’s Aesthetic Form” guide (*Crime and Punishment* tab, “Aesthetic Form” section) and specifically the chapters on Characterization, Narration/ Focalization, and Language: Types of Speech and Thought Presentation.
- Consider the relation between characterization and theme. Although the topic focuses on aesthetic form, detecting each novel’s theme will help you assess the choices the authors’ make regarding character presentation.

- Consider the relation between characterization and narration/ focalization.
- Consider the relation between characterization and plot.
- Consider the relation between characterization and setting.
- Consider the relation between characterization and figurative language.
- Watch the following videos:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vmh_90HcxRU and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtHilmUa69M>
Spoiler alert: Read the novels before watching the videos; many plot points are revealed in them.
- Do some research on Virginia Woolf's use of the "stream of consciousness" technique and think about the ways that this form of thought presentation gives us insights into characters' perceptions, and how these are more important than plot, as we traditionally think about it.

Enjoy your summer!