

**Dear Incoming Student of IB English A Literature:**

Congratulations on your acceptance into this rewarding and challenging course. We will be working together to understand, reflect on, and respond to a number of classic works of literature. Your work begins this summer! In preparation for the upcoming academic year, please **purchase the following texts**:

<u>Focus of the Program</u>	<u>Author/ Playwright</u>	<u>Year One Texts</u>
Part 1	Fyodor Dostoyevsky	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> *
Part 1	Marjane Satrapi	<i>Persepolis</i> *
Part 1	Sophocles	<i>Oedipus Rex</i> *
Part 4	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> *
Part 2	William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i> *

**\* See below for recommended editions**

These works, along with the poetry of John Keats and the essays of Annie Dillard (I will give you these as handouts in class next year) form the basis for our study of **Part 1, Works in Translation, Part 2, Detailed Study, and Part 4 Literary Options**.

**The Summer Assignment (Required Reading: *Crime and Punishment/ One Hundred Years of Solitude*)**

**A. CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

**1. Read Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.** (Try to find the Penguin Classics edition, translated by David McDuff, and avoid *any* edition that does not specify a translator *or* page numbers!) **\*Suggested ISBN: 0140449132 (McDuff), or 0141192801 (Ready)**

I **recommend** 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. This will assist with class discussions and the completion of future assignments.

**2. Create a "Reader-Response" or Dialogic Journal:** This journal is essentially a record of your "dialogue" with the book as you read it: the questions it inspires, its revelations, the passages that truly move you. On the due date, you will submit a journal of **15 (15-25 line) entries that span the entire length of the novel. There must be at least one entry from each part (including the epilogue) and several in-between!**

- Set up your journal format (using Microsoft Word or another word processor) as a table (**15 rows, 2 columns**) with appropriate headings ("Excerpt" and "Response").
- As you read, pick a brief section of text that jumps off the page for you. Choose one with which you can interact in a meaningful fashion, and copy it into the left-hand column. **Make sure to note the page number of the excerpt.** You can find a sample entry on the back of this page.
  - This excerpt may:
    - Represent writing techniques that you have a question about or admire.
    - Show the use of a tone or style.
    - Reveal an intriguing plot twist, climax or theme.
    - Teach you something about the world that you did not know before.
    - Make an interesting comment on human relationships, or on conditions in society.

**3. Tracking a Trend: A Useful Journaling Technique**

- a. You may wish to use this journal to track a trend such as a motif (a symbolic element, like the use of a color) or character development (How does [character] change over the course of the novel?). I am not requiring this kind of restriction on your journal, but you may find it helpful.

Excerpt from Novel	Response
<p>“To the education of her daughters, Lady Bertram paid not the smallest attention. She had no time for such cares. She was a woman who spent her days in sitting nicely dressed on a sofa, doing some long piece of needlework, of little use and no beauty, thinking more of her pug than her children” (17).</p>	<p>This passage is an example of Jane Austen’s satirical style. Mrs. Bertram seems to be much like many middle to upper class women of her time. She is bored, unmotivated, and superficial. Because there is nothing of great importance happening in their lives, these women often have no care for what they can do for their families. This also shows that Fanny will have no comfort from Mr. or Mrs. Bertram. Picturing a lazy woman making ugly needlepoint and fussing over her ugly little dog is also funny even while it makes a significant point.</p>

*Sample Entry: Jane Austen’s “Mansfield Park*

**Due Date:** These passages are due the **first week of class in September** and will be a significant grade for first quarter. If you have any questions, please see me during the exam period June 2018 or email me.

## B. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE

**1. Read Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. ISBN-10: 0241968585 translated by Gregory Rabassa**

**2.** As you read *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, you must keep notes, annotate your texts, highlight significant passages, use post-its or adopt your own system of recording your observations. This will assist with class discussions and the completion of future assignments.

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### Further Details on Part 1 works

Our study of the **Part 1, Works in Translation**, will focus on the cultural and contextual aspects of each work (novel or play) and will include interactive orals, reflective writing and supervised writing to guided questions that culminate in a formal Written Assignment which is submitted to IB for external assessment. (More on this once we meet in class.) For now, suffice to say that you need a good understanding of *each work’s* setting, plot, characterization and themes *before* we begin to treat it as literature.

To that end, you must read *Crime and Punishment* over the summer. I recommend that you **also read the other part 1 works (*Oedipus Rex and Persepolis*)!**

**Some Points to Consider as You Read *Crime and Punishment* (Recommended: research into the aspects below)**

- Cultural / Social aspects of life in St Petersburg in the mid 1800’s
- Russian Existentialism
- The Ubermensch theory
- Dostoyevsky’s life and experiences (similarities to his protagonist’s views)
- The structure of the novel: six parts + epilogue
- The psychological state of the protagonist
- Narration and use of memory / flashbacks

**Best wishes for a safe, happy and productive summer!**

\* **The Three Theban Plays. Sophocles. ISBN-10: 0140444254 translated by Robert Fagles**

\* **Persepolis. Marjane Satrapi. ISBN-10: 009952399X**

\* **One Hundred Years of Solitude. Gabriel Garcia Marquez ISBN-10: 0241968585 translated by Gregory Rabassa**

\* **Hamlet. William Shakespeare. Cambridge School Shakespeare. Cambridge University Press (3<sup>rd</sup> revised ed.) ISBN -13: 978-1107615489**