

**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:**

<b><u>Standard &amp; Higher Level:</u></b>	Morrison, Toni	<i>Song of Solomon</i>
	Achebe, Chinua	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
	Conrad, Joseph	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>
<b><u>Higher Level Only:</u></b>	Woolf, Virginia	<i>To the Lighthouse</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 2019.

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**The Summer Assignment**

1. You **must** read ALL four novels (for Higher Level) and ALL three novels (for Standard Level). Please don't spend time searching for what critics have had to say about these novels. Read for enjoyment and understanding (as you construct it). Recommended research suggestions are to provide context for your reading.

**2. General Instructions to be followed for all 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 answer the following essay question (i.e. write a Paper 2 essay). You must base your answer on **TWO** of the novels and compare and contrast these works in response to the following question:

**Discuss the importance of the journey as an organizing structure in at least two works you have studied.**

You need to support your ideas with specific textual references. Please make sure that you review the assessment criteria before writing the essay. You may also want to review the Paper 2 resources on Moodle. It might be a good idea for you to download, save and/or print relevant documents and files.

**4. Preparation for a Formal Commentary:**

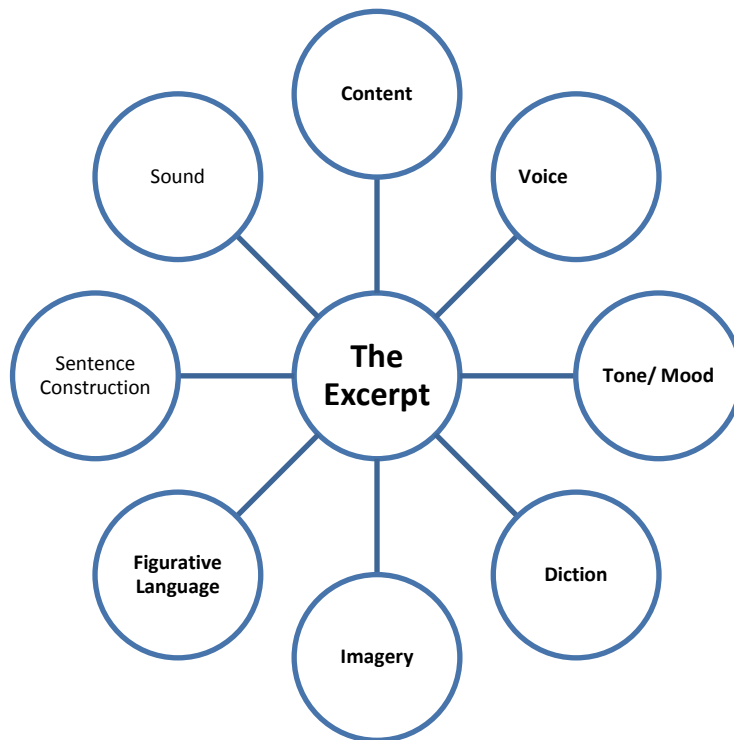
For **the third** novel (if you are **Standard Level**) or for **the other two** novels (if you are **Higher Level**), you need to follow the instructions below:

For each novel, select a passage (25-35 lines) that you found particularly intriguing. Type out the selected excerpt, save it electronically, and print it. Annotate the printout: highlight significant literary elements, phrases, examples of diction etc.

This will assist you in the completion of a formal commentary when you come back in September.

Although you do not need to write a complete formal commentary on selected excerpts during the summer, you **must** take notes on the following: Purpose/ Theme/ Structure/ Stylistic and Literary Techniques- Devices and their effects/ Tone/ Mood

You may find the following diagram useful in organizing your notes:



Some key questions that you need to ask yourself as you read and take notes:

- What is the author's purpose in this passage?
- What are the main ideas conveyed here?
- How do language and style shape meaning?
- What effects does the passage have on you as a reader?

### Special Instructions

a. **The above assignments are due the first week of class in September 2018.**

You will also be required to upload the Paper 2 essay on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com).

b. **Read the following novels in the order indicated. You must read ALL four novels (for Higher Level) and ALL three novels (for Standard Level). Some points to consider as you read are included.**

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### 1. *Song of Solomon*

Along with following the process of Milkman's self-discovery, watch for Morrison's use of dialect, motifs, and her 'narrative gems.' The opening scene of the novel is especially well-crafted since so many of the characters, their relationships, themes and motifs are present and then reappear and are expanded upon as the novel progresses.

Note the connection between the novel's structure, setting, values and character development. Watch for flashbacks, transitions, memories and dreams. Pay special attention to narrative perspective.

**Recommended:** Research on the author, Toni Morrison, as well as the context of the novel.

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## **2. *Heart of Darkness***

- Narrative structure: The first voice you hear is not the voice of the principle narrator. How is the story framed? Who is present as the novel opens? How is Marlowe presented? Notice the diction that is used to describe him. There are several narrative breaks as the novel progresses. Note their placement, purpose & effect.
- The title, levels of metaphor, duality
- Two rivers
- Symbols
- Pairs of contrasting elements
- Patterns of Imagery
- Portrayal, purpose & placement of female characters
- Role of secondary characters
- Mystery, suspense & foreshadowing
- Tone & mood
- Political context
- Lies, tricks, deceptions & mistakes
- Journeys & transformations
- Civilization
- Kurtz

**Recommended:** A little research on King Leopold II of Belgium & the Congo; Imperialism & the Ivory trade; Biographical information on Conrad

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## **3. *Things Fall Apart***

This is a novel that relies on elements of oral story-telling. Pay attention to the language and how it is used. Note also the use of proverbs, folktales, superstitions and beliefs. Consider the role of the weather, women (their weakness as well as their power), religion, traditions and family. Note the use of music (and silence), animal imagery and the representation of the physical and spiritual worlds.

**Recommended:** Research on the Ibo people of the Niger Delta.

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## **4. *To the Lighthouse***

Watch for the way the novel is narrated. You may want to do some research on the narrative technique that is known as “stream of consciousness” and think about the ways that this technique gives us insights into characters’ thoughts and perceptions, and how these are more important than plot, as we traditionally think about it. Think about what you know about the WWI era and its aftermath and how this is important to appreciating the novel fully.

**Enjoy your summer!**