

English IV IB Language & Literature: Summer Reading Assignment

The following is your summer reading assignment for English IV next year with me, Mrs. Trebert. Please feel free to contact me this summer if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by e-mail at ltrebert@uplifteducation.org or through Schoology 😊.

1. Anchor TEXT:

Everyone will read the following text before school next year. The full book of poetry is available on my Schoology page for free, OR you can purchase your own copy.

- **The World's Wife** by Carol Ann Duffy
 - In "The World's Wife," Duffy deftly reworks tales from myths, fables, the bible, popular culture, literature and history. This book is the running definition of 'female gaze' in literature. Duffy takes stories like the raising of Lazarus, or the fall of Icarus, or even Shakespeare's bestowment of his 'second best bed' to his wife, and retells them from a female perspective. In other poems, she transforms male-oriented stories to female: Pope Joan and Queen Kong being examples. Within this premise, she examines the one-sided puritanical attitudes of relationships, the demonization of female biology, and strikes at the literary patriarchy with humor and devastating seriousness. This is a lovely collection that wisely avoids striking the same note over and over but instead varies from control (ie, Eurydice WANTING Orpheus to turn and look and free her), to sexuality (Little Red Riding Hood as sexual awakening) to a dismay at the male animal (Sisyphus's wife agog at her husband's persistence). – Amazon review
- **Reading Annotations:**
 - *At the start of next year there will be a major discussion (TEST GRADE) paralleling and analyzing major themes and elements in both the poetry & your chosen author for the secondary text:*
 - Read and annotate, because we will be discussing the text all of semester 1. *You will be able to use your annotated texts for a graded discussion first quarter.*
 - Marking and annotating a text is like having a conversation with a book—it allows the reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark passages to revisit.
 - **How to Annotate:**
 - Make brief notes on the page or on a sticky note marking important plot events, narrative shifts, or themes, images, and details that form a pattern throughout the text (motif).
 - Circle words that are unfamiliar or unusual—try to figure out the word's meaning through contextual clues and supplement with a dictionary.

2. Secondary TEXT (CHOOSE ONE ONLY):

Choose at least ONE of the following Modern Texts to read:

(If you are torn, read more than one! 😊 Please reach out to me for support purchasing a text.)

- ***Circe* by Madeline Miller** (mythical fiction, Circe's story from her point of view)
 - IF you love *Odyssey*, *Percy Jackson*, or all things Greek Myth, THIS is the read for you. A modern style fictional portrayal of an obscure and overlooked female goddess, abused by her male counterparts, who embraces her own fate and purpose.

- ***Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler** (science/historical fiction, modern time traveler in slave era)
 - IF you love *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, or time travel, THIS is the read for you. A modern style historical fiction transporting a contemporary woman through time to her slave ancestors, a past she must preserve to save her future.

- ***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote** (non-fiction journalistic, small-town murder -all povs)
 - IF you love Agatha Christie, murder mysteries, or true crime, THIS is the read for you. A documentary style non-fiction portrait of a real-life murder in small town 1950's Kansas from the point of view of the victims, detectives, and murderers.

- ***Watchmen* by Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons** (graphic novel, antihero superheroes)
 - IF you love comic book heroes or shows like *Invincible* and *The Boys*, THIS is the read for you. A graphic novel portrayal of superheroes as realistically flawed human beings struggling with Vietnam war PTSD, mental health, and ethical morality.

- ***The Power* by Naomi Alderman** (urban fantasy fiction, global gender dynamics reversal)
 - IF you love works that play with gender dynamics like *Carol Ann Duffy* or *The Handmaid's Tale*, THIS is the read for you. A satirical 'historical' fiction depicting a world where women gain the power of electricity, and societal hierarchy shifts.

- ***The City We Became* by N. K. Jemisin** (urban fantasy fiction, 'birth' of NYC as a soul)
 - IF you love urban fantasy stories like *The Mortal Instruments* or anything by Stephen King, THIS is the read for you. A fictional portrait of the 'birth' of a city as a living soul, through the conduit of four distinct and unsuspecting New York residents.

- **World War Z by Max Brooks** (documentary style fiction, 10 years post zombie wars)
 - IF you love zombie movies, shows like *The Walking Dead*, or journalistic fiction, THIS is the read for you. A documentary style fiction portrayal of the world ten years after the end of the ‘zombie wars’ as humanity attempts to rebuild society.

- **Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro** (science fiction, futuristic AI from the AI pov)
 - IF you love science fiction, robotics/AI, or movies like *Ex Machina*, THIS is the read for you. A futuristic fiction story of a world where sentient AI is the norm in most households, told from the viewpoint of an AI child companion seeking to save a life.

3. College Application Essay WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Write a college application essay based of the ‘common application’ essay prompts for 2024-25.

- The word limit for the essay is 650 words (so be concise, yet eloquent!).
- Choose ONE of the following ‘common application’ essay prompts to write about:

Supplementary support materials such as advice on how to write a college essay as well as exemplar essays will be available on our Schoology page under ‘Summer Reading’.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Name: _____

Personal Statement Evaluation

Rubric

Criterion	Poor 1	Below Average 2	Average 3	Above Average 4	Exceptional 5
Writing Structure					
1. The essay is grammatically accurate.					
2. The sentence structure is varied.					
3. Syntax is neither too wordy nor too concise.					
4. The essay demonstrates clear paragraphs.					
5. The essay shows distinct style and voice.					
Content Structure					
6. Addresses the prompt question clearly.					
7. Creative and original topic choice.					
8. A clear flow of ideas from beginning to end.					
9. Focuses on a clear central theme throughout.					
10. Captures the reader's attention from the start.					
11. Get in and out of the essay with finesse.					
12. Provides detail, anecdotes, and imagery.					
13. Stays within the word count limit (650 words).					
Personal Characteristics					
14. Shows what you bring to the community.					
15. Demonstrates positivity toward the future.					
16. Shows what sets you apart from others.					
17. Conveys that you are humble.					
18. Conveys that you are mature.					
19. Conveys that you are compassionate.					
20. Avoids repeating information.					

Total Points: _____ / 100