

## Summer Reading Assignment - IB English

While reading, maintain a response journal in which you react to the use of specific literary techniques, key scenes, quotations or themes in the work. To any active reader, certain scenes stand out as significant or particularly powerful. Certain quotations or style choices might jump off the page and stick in your mind. Please do NOT engage in summary of the plot. You must have a minimum of 5 entries for **each** work.

In your journal entries, discuss issues such as theme, character, tone, voice, imagery, figurative language, setting and historical, social or political context. If there are key quotations or elements that you find particularly puzzling, copy them into your journal with page numbers noted so we can find them in our class work with the text in September.

Consider your journal as your own conversation with the text. Try to think like your teacher might. What sorts of questions might your teacher ask if you were studying the work as a group? If you had the author sitting across from you as you read, what might you ask him/her?

Each of your journals should be a full page of writing. They need not be particularly formal as your responses should be reflective of your developing thinking.

Be comprehensive in your journal. Do not simply respond to one particular part of the book. Reveal your engagement of the works from beginning to end.

Finally, select one of the following four essay options and write a well-constructed, cohesive academic style (5 paragraph) essay response. There isn't a page minimum or maximum for either assignment; however, you should be thorough while not taking more than an hour to complete the prompt as this is designed to prepare you for the rigor of the examinations at course end. Do NOT summarize the work.

### Antigone by Sophocles

Choice A:

Write an essay in which you present arguments for and against the work's relevance for a person living in modern times. Your own position should emerge through the course of the response.

Choice B:

The conflict created when the will of an individual opposes the will of the majority is the recurring theme of many great works. Identify a character who is in opposition to his or her society, analyze the conflict and discuss the moral and ethical implications for both the individual and the society.

or

**The Awakening** by Kate Chopin

Choice A:

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience. In *The Awakening*, consider which character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole.

Choice B:

In many works of literature, a main character has a mentor or mentor-like acquaintance whose influence dramatically changes how the character views not only himself or herself, but the world as well. In *The Awakening*, consider if a mentor exhibits such a strong influence, either beneficial or harmful, on one of the main characters. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss the nature of the mentor’s influence and its significance to the work as a whole.

## Independent Summer Reading

## Reader Response Rubric

**Directions:** Use the following qualities criteria to guide your critical Summer Reading Responses. An academic essay has an introduction, 3 body paragraphs and a conclusion.

**Quality** \_\_\_\_\_ sophisticated - complete - basic - partial - confused - oops

**Meaning** - the extent to which the essay exhibits analysis of the writing task and answers the prompt?

5            4            3            2            1            0

**Development** - the degree to which the essay uses examples and discussion to support the thesis and to explain the ideas presented in the literary work?

5            4            3            2            1            0

**Organization** - the extent to which the response establishes a clear thesis and maintains direction, focus and coherence?

5            4            3            2            1            0

**Language** - the degree to which the essay reveals an awareness of audience and purpose through word choice and sentence variety?

5            4            3            2            1            0

**Conventions** - the extent to which the writing demonstrates control over spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing?

5            4            3            2            1            0