



IB Diploma Program English Literature A – Higher Level

Grade 11 Summer Assignment 2016

Welcome to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program! The Literature A course is rigorous but also intensely rewarding.

Over this summer, you will read two novels and view two films which introduce you to literary elements addressed in the course.

Novels
Daytripper TP by Gabriel Ba & Fabio Moon
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Films
Doctor Zhivago (30th anniversary edition if possible)
Wüthering Heights (1992 version with Ralph Fiennes and Juliet Binoche)

Annotations and reading/viewing journals will be **checked** and given a courtesy assessment (not a recorded grade) on the first day of school.

You will be **assessed** on summer readings and films within the first two weeks of school.

For all summer works, pay particular attention to:

- narrative stance and point of view
- recurring images, words, and concepts
- different connotations of words or phrases
- authorial intent and plot manipulation
- possible symbolic meanings
- shifts in tone and setting
- use of framing devices

Reading Journal & Viewing Notes

You will maintain a **reading journal** for *Daytripper TP* and **viewing notes** for *Doctor Zhivago* and *Wüthering Heights*.

For the graphic novel, your task is to keep track of characters, actions, senses, motifs and other recurring concepts. *Daytripper TP* is divided into sections that provide different stories on the same central idea. In addition to notes, you should compose reflections for each chapter that recall your strongest impressions as well as the most powerful senses that were engaged.

For the films, keep track of characters, actions, and... Pretty much the same things found in *Daytripper TP*. The films are more conventional stories both in composition and visual representation when compared to *Daytripper TP*, so they might seem familiar. Be mindful that each film contains many important elements that develop the story.

Journal and Notes Submission

You will submit the reading journal and viewing notes in one packet. Writing must be legible and sections must be clearly marked.

Suggested length for the *Daytripper TP* journal is 250 words for each chapter.

Suggested length for *Doctor Zhivago* and *Wüthering Heights* viewing notes is 500 words for each film.

Note that the above number are only **suggestions**. You might write more or less. You will be scored on depth of analysis rather than number or words. Get used to that concept. In the Diploma Program, scores are earned from depth of ideas and how you apply concepts, not on the number of pages you produce.

Annotations

You will annotate *All the Light We Cannot See*. This means that you will write in the book itself.

Look inside the word **annotation** and you find the word **note**. That is what annotating is—taking notes about what you read while you read it. The main goal for annotating is to interact closely with the text. It will be very difficult to achieve success in English Literature A without interacting very closely with each work studied. Get used to reading and re-reading each work if you expect to succeed.

Annotating can be a frustrating at first because it is not always clear what is important (or not) in a given work. With **practice** and **experience**, you will become an effective annotator. Do not expect to master this skill over the summer. Do try to practice annotating to your best ability.

Things to avoid while annotating: Paraphrasing the text; expletives about how you (dis)like characters; restating the plot; and excessive commentary. Avoid using highlighters. **Do** ask questions, **do** draw arrows, **do** draw symbols, and **do** use the entire page.

If it seems too much to expect, worry not. By the end of your first year, you will be able to reflect on your summer works and appreciate them at deeper and more meaningful levels. You might even find yourself revisiting them for enjoyment.

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