

Student Name: _____

please check one: Class of '11 Class of '12

Dear IB English Students and Parents:

Congratulations on joining students from 1,000 schools around the world in a rigorous study of literature! We welcome you to this two-year program as an incoming junior or a returning senior. This letter, with your signature and prompt return, serves as a record that you have received information about the program, titles, IB assessments, the relationship between IB studies and weighted grades, and summer reading plans.

Program Overview

IB English students read works of literature from two IB lists: the World Literature List and the Prescribed Book List. IB directors and planners from the IB Organization (IB) identify approved works and authors for our IB trained staff to reference when constructing a reading list that meet the aims and objectives of the IB program (see reverse for titles). Inherent to IB's broader global understanding, we read from other cultures' perspectives. At times, readers feel an inclination to make moral judgments about the fictional societies and characters we encounter. We acknowledge these feelings and then assist students in moving past emotional responses to assessing the literature through a critical lens. We also heavily emphasize deconstruction of a text in order to best understand how writers create their art. IB expects that students reflect on the art in a culture as a means to understand a common human bond explored through a variety of perspectives.

Students use IB titles on internal and external assessments (see reverse for details), graded and/or moderated by trained readers from around the globe. As a prescribed program, we must notify IB a year in advance what titles we will read. Because of this, **IB allows only one title substitution** for the two-year program. Please look over the titles on the reverse of this sheet and review them over the summer; should you or your student wish to request a substitution we ask that you present your request to the IB coordinator, Celeste Colasurdo, before the school year begins.

IB English is a detailed study of literature, not a basic writing course. As such IB expects that students have controlled command over college prep writing and usage skills when they enter the program. Instructors respond to writing instruction needs as the literature creates opportunities to address stylistic and technical options or standards. Our emphasis is on enjoyment and analysis of the literature. Students must appreciate reading and discussing ideas, as these are the very heart of the program.

Weighted Grades

Although BSD Seniors who take IB classes will graduate with "weighted grades" this does not affect classroom practice. BSD weighted grades only affect transcripts and GPA. A student who earns a "B" on a paper or test does not then get an "A" in the class. Students with a desire to earn an "A" need to meet "A" standards based upon both IB and teacher criteria.

Summer Preparation

We expect students to **read each of the grade level novels at least once** over the summer and highly recommend that students preview plays, short stories, and the poets. Escape into the rich worlds of the stories, get to know the characters, delight in the variety of styles. Students on their second or third reading when we study titles as a class are better prepared to delve deeply into the text. Strong readers have purposeful encounters with the entire text a total of three times.

Please sign and return the colored copy of this letter to the main office by Friday, June 12th.

We have read and understand the expectations of Southridge High School's IB Language A1 Program.

Parent Name – Printed

Parent Signature / Date

Student Name – Printed

Student Signature / Date