Welcome readers and writers to IB Literature! We look forward to working with you during the year. As part of this course, students will read and reflect on a work of fiction published in 2019 over the summer.

PURPOSE
Through a close analysis of a self-selected literary text, students will consider their own interpretations, as well as the critical perspectives of others. When school begins, students will be involved in processes of critical response and creative production in association with their selected novel, which will help shape their awareness of how texts work to influence the reader and how readers open up the possibilities of texts (IB Language A: Literature Guide).

STEPS TO SUCCESS

➢ **STEP 1:** Please select one of the books Publishers Weekly has deemed the “Best Fiction of 2019.” This list reflects a focus on fiction texts and can be found here:

  ***IMPORTANT NOTE***
  Some of the titles below deal with mature and/or controversial subject matter. Parents and students will want to preview their potential book choice prior to reading and discuss if the book is the “right fit” for the student. One quick way to preview the subject matter is to read reviews from online sites like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Common Sense Media, or Goodreads.

  If you are not comfortable reading any of the works listed on the Publishers Weekly website, you may opt to read Siddhartha, by Hermann Hesse (the Hilda Rosner translation is recommended). This novel is available for checkout in the Jones Student Union and at your local library.

➢ **STEP 2:** Discuss your text selection with a parent/guardian and have them review this assignment sheet and sign the permission slip attached before you begin reading. This will be collected on the first day of school.

➢ **STEP 3:** As you read, mark at least 10 passages that are particularly vivid or striking to you and write notes about what seems most compelling in the margins (You may do this digitally so long as you are able to export your annotated remarks).

  You should also find at least two passages where your interest was lost in the reading and try to determine why. After you have finished reading the entire text, review the passages you marked and think about how the author uses detail and/or literary techniques to make the scenes memorable or relatable in some way, or where and why they may have failed to hold your interest. Your highlighting and annotating should reflect your thinking about the impact of the author’s writing.

  Be prepared to discuss and analyze the passages from your chosen book and answer questions about them.
Where might I find these books?

If possible, students should purchase their own copies of their chosen book. It is an advantage to be able to take notes in the margins and underline or highlight notable passages. You may buy these books cheaply online and find copies at our local bookstores.

You may also check out your chosen works from the public library or check out digital copies of your books. Public libraries often offer free e-books. We recommend looking at the website of your local library to view their electronic catalogues and services. However, you would not be able to take notes in the text itself, so you will need to record your selected passages and annotations on a word processing document.

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**To recap, your tasks are to do the following before the first day of school:**

- Self-select an appropriate novel from Publisher’s Weekly “Best Fiction of 2019” list
- Discuss your text selection with a parent/guardian. Then, obtain their approval (they must sign a permission slip before you begin reading).
- Read the novel.
- Mark at least 10 passages that are particularly vivid or striking to you and write notes about what seems most compelling in the margins.
- Find at least two places where the author(s) lost your interest and annotate why in the margins.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

This summer all incoming Higher-Level, IB Literature students at Chandler High School will be required to read a novel of their choosing from the from Publisher’s Weekly “Best Fiction of 2019” list as their summer reading assignment. This will involve your student(s) reading a book by an author who may or may not be on the District’s Approved Authors List, and then crafting analytic and imaginative responses to those texts once the school year begins. This assignment is designed to allow students the freedom to choose what they will read and study, and the work students will engage in will lend to an understanding of how their selected author has engaged in craftsmanship to affect their readers and convey meaning. If you are uncomfortable with the options provided, your student may read *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse which is on the CUSD Approved Reading List.

As all authors explore different points of view and utilize language differently, we would like you, the parent/caregiver to be aware of the nature of this assignment so that you are able to become actively involved in your child’s text selection. Please discuss your expectations regarding the language, subject matter and themes you are comfortable with them exploring as they select their novel. Talk with them about the text they would like to choose and ensure that you are comfortable with it’s subjects, themes and language. We are excited to afford our students the autonomy to select their own reading material and understand that in doing so, we must rely on their judgement and your approval.

Book reviews are readily available online, and Common Sense Media is a non-profit organization that “publishes independent ratings and reviews for nearly everything kids want to read” and their book ratings “are conducted by expert reviewers and aren’t influenced by the creators or by [their] funders.” This website may be of assistance when reviewing your child’s text selections. The web address for their book reviews is: [www.commonsensemedia.org/reviews/](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/reviews/)

On the back of this letter there is a permission statement which we are requiring students to submit on the first day of class that indicates your approval of the book they have selected. Please contact your child’s English teacher or our English Department Chair, Catherine Jones, if you have any questions concerning this assignment ([jones.catherine@cusd80.com](mailto:jones.catherine@cusd80.com)). Thank you very much for your time and investment in your child’s learning; we are looking forward to the upcoming school year and to learn about each of the books our students select!

Sincerely,

(HL) IB Literature teachers
Chandler High School
480-812-7700
Students: please use ink to complete this form and complete the top portion of the form before you begin reading your selected novel.

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<th>Student Name</th>
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<td>Book Title</td>
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<td>Author</td>
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Parents/Guardians: Please take a moment to read the letter that accompanies this permission slip and ensure that the information requested above has been provided by your child before you sign the acknowledgment below.

I, ______________________________________, am aware that my child will be reading the above-named book this summer for their IB Literature class. I understand that this book was selected by my child and I approve of the author(s), subject matter, and language it contains and grant them permission to read this novel.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____________________________________________

Date: ________________