



## IB English A: Language and Literature HL Year 1 Summer Assignment

Liz Boss

Bossel@fultonschools.org

Dear Rising IB Juniors and Parents,

Congratulations! You have made an important decision to accept the challenge of the IB curriculum, and I welcome the opportunity to work with you. The literary works and authors for **English A: Language and Literature HL** were carefully

chosen from the Prescribed List of Authors and the Prescribed List of Translated Work published by the International Baccalaureate Organization. In addition, every assignment that is completed in this course is preparing you for one of the four upcoming IB exams that you will complete over the course of the next two years.

**Summer assignment associated with the reading will be collected the first day of class:  
Monday in August**

### PART A:

Overview: The seven concepts below have been identified for inclusion in the Language and Literature course by IB and are important to explore before we begin learning in the Fall. You will listen to the album titled “Blue” by Joni Mitchell. **For each of the songs on the album, you will choose TWO topics below and answer ONE question from each topic chosen.** In the end, you will have 20 questions answered that I will **formally check** when we return to school in August.

[PLEASE NOTE: Each day that this assignment is late will result in a 10-point deduction.]

#### Creativity:

By analyzing works of creativity, we are studying what it means to be human.

1. Why do writers write?
2. Why do artists create?
3. How do writers make creative choices to construct meaning?
4. Where does creativity come from?
5. And what’s the reader’s role in creating meaning.

#### Perspective:

By exploring “perspective,” we are exploring diversity and developing our ability to show empathy.

1. How do texts offer readers new perspectives on life?
2. How can a character give us a window to the world?
3. How do narrative techniques shape the reader’s understanding of a story?
4. How is it possible for readers to have contradicting interpretations of a text?

### Transformation:

By studying the transformation of texts, we are studying the evolution of humanity.

1. How can the reading of a text be transformative for a reader?
2. How can words change the world?
3. How do readers write about texts?
4. How do readers rewrite texts?

### Identity:

By analyzing texts, we are really analyzing who we are and what we want to become.

1. To what extent is a text an expression of a writer's identity?
2. Do readers like characters who are thinly veiled versions of themselves?
3. Do strong characters challenge readers to be someone different?

### Representation:

By studying texts and literary works, we engage in a dialogue about how the world works and how the world could be.

1. Can fiction represent reality?
2. How are characters "fair" representation of people?

\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 pts

### PART B:

Overview: Now that you have spent some time exploring Joni Mitchell's album and the seven concepts outlined by IB, you will answer each of the following questions below using specific evidence from the text. **\*\*HINT: IB classifies musical albums as *POETRY*. This means that you must look up the lyrics to the songs that you want to reference in your responses below so that you can specifically reference certain portions of the text. Summarizing will result in zero points.**

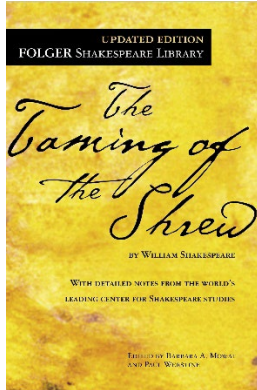
1. Discuss both how and why the text invites the reader to identify with situations, characters and/or ideas.
2. Often the appeal for the reader of a literary work is the atmosphere a writer creates (for example, peaceful, menacing or ironic). Discuss some of the ways atmospheres are conveyed and to what effect.
3. Writers often choose words, phrases and names of characters and places not only for their literal meaning, but for further meanings that they may suggest to the reader. With reference to the text, discuss how such words and their associations contribute to your understanding and appreciation of the works.
4. How does the text that you have studied portray the struggle to be understood?
5. Some literary texts, although set in a particular place or time, convey ideas that are universal. In what ways is this true in the text that you have studied?

\_\_\_\_\_ / 70 pts

In addition to the assignment, you will also need to purchase the first work that we will explore this Fall. We will explore a total of 3 weeks during Year 1. I will give you ample notice before the start of each unit so that you can purchase the book in time. Right now, you only need to purchase ONE of the three works we will study in the fall.

**You may ONLY use the print version of the texts in class.**

**Fall Purchase – Need in August!**



*The Taming of the Shrew*, William Shakespeare → <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mwnuu>

**\*\* I have linked the copy that I have. It is easiest if everyone has the same copy. You MAY NOT use in class the “No Fear Shakespeare” version.**