**COURSE SYLLABUS**

*Language A: Literature*, International Baccalaureate, Higher Level

May 2026 Exams

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**Goals:** The International Baccalaureate program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people by promoting intercultural understanding and respect. The two-year Higher Level English course requires students to actively engage with literature in order to embrace a working methodology evidenced by independent thought and the creative analysis of traditional and modern literary texts. Areas of exploration include close reading, historical and cultural perspectives, and intertextuality.

**Weblog:** All relevant information, including course maps, required readings, descriptions of assignments, rubrics, resources, links, class news, etc., is available on-line: Year 1, The Tower ([http://ibsmart.edublogs.org](http://ibsmarter.edublogs.org)) and Year 2, Clarissa’s Attic (<http://ibsmarter.edublogs.org>).

**Grades:** Students will be assessed in the form of tests, reflective and analytical writing, papers, or creative projects; minor grades (quizzes, blog posts, etc.) count 40% and major grades count 60% per RHSD policy.

**Required Readings (Instructional Units):**

Year 1

Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere* 1

Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Paramo*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Shusaku Endo, *Silence*

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life*

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Year 2

Rebecca Kuang, *Babel*

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Poetry of John Milton

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (selected stories)

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*

1 Summer Reading & first full unit

**IB Assessments:**

* *The HL Paper* (Year 1 - May; 20% of IB score) is a 1500-word literary analysis of a work studied to date, also submitted to the IB for external assessment. The HL Paper grade assigned by the teacher will also be the Final Exam grade for the 1st year. Class time is usually allowed to help students plan and write their essays.
* *The Individual Oral Assessment* (Year 2 - December; 20% of the IB score) is internally assessed, but is recorded and moderated by the IB. The IA is a prepared, extemporaneous recorded spoken statement of 10 minutes based on two extracts of 40 lines (max) chosen by the student from two works he/she has studied in the course, followed by 5 minutes of questions by the teacher, in the context of a global issue. The IO score assigned by the teacher will also be the Final Exam grade for the 2nd year.
* *Paper 1: Guided Literary Analysis* (Year 2 - May; 35% of the IB score) is a 2.15-hour written exam in which students write analytical commentaries on an unseen prose text and an unseen poem or poetry extract, to be assessed externally by an IB Examiner.
* *Paper 2:* *Comparative Essay* (Year 2 - May; 25% of the IB score) is a 1.45-hour written exam comparing two works studied in the course in response to one of several prompts, to be assessed externally by an IB Examiner.

**Miscellaneous Information:**

* Honor Code violations have serious consequences and may result in dismissal from the IB program.
* In-class assessments missed due to absence must be made up as an out-of-class alternate assignment.
* Late work is not accepted without prior arrangement and/or with an excuse provided by a parent.
* Students should obtain personal physical editions of the required texts for the purpose of annotation.
* Electronic devices may be used in class *only* at the teacher’s discretion and *never* during in-class assessments.