



International Baccalaureate

2017-2018 Summer Reading Assignment

Pre-IB English I

Welcome to the International Baccalaureate Program here at Gateway High School. We are honored that you have chosen to apply for such a rigorous program of study, and we congratulate you on being selected to be a part of the most challenging academic program our country has to offer.

In order to pack as much into our year as possible, there are some requirements that you will have to work on during the summer and have completed when you return to school in August. There are two (2) assignments that require you to purchase the books. The assignments are outlined below.

Required Texts

You are required to purchase your own copy of the two summer texts. These will be your copies, and you can write and take notes in them as you'd like (in fact, one of the assignments will require you to mark in the text). While you may purchase your texts from anywhere you wish, please buy the specific edition that is listed below so that we may all be on the same page, literally. For your convenience, you can purchase the books at the Amazon links provided.

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton

Grand Central Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-0446574754

http://www.amazon.com/Mythology-Timeless-Tales-Gods-Heroes/dp/0446574759?ie=UTF8&keywords=edith%20hamilton%20mythology&qid=1464692495&ref=sr_1_1&s=books&sr=1-1

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

Dover Thrift Editions, ISBN-13: 978-0486282220

http://www.amazon.com/Pygmalion-Thrift-Editions-George-Bernard/dp/0486282228?ie=UTF8&keywords=pygmalion&qid=1464692556&ref=sr_1_2&s=books&sr=1-2

Assignment 1

Read Pygmalion. As you read, you will underline references to key subjects of the play. A reference can include a character directly mentioning the subject, or an indirect reference in which characters demonstrate a subject through their words or actions. Use the following colors:

- Underline all references to *social class and position* using a **Black** pen.
- Underline all references to *the importance of language* using a **Red** pen.
- Underline all references to *the challenges of women* using a **Blue** pen.

Assignment 2

Read Pygmalion and Mythology. Answer the following essay questions with a paragraph or two each. You will hand in a typed response using MLA formatting (you do not need to include citations). Follow this link for help in formatting your essay questions (look in the sections titled *General Guidelines* and *Formatting the First Page of Your Paper*):

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Questions

1. Who were some of the principal writers of Greek and Roman myths, and for which works are they best known?
2. Summarize the Greek creation myth: according to ancient Greeks, how and why was the earth created?
3. For the ancients, a *hero* is someone who goes on a quest and shows bravery and strength in the accomplishment of a great task, winning a prize. Of the heroes whose stories are recounted in Part Three of Mythology, which best embodies this ideal of the hero? Why?
4. The Trojan War was a conflict that involved nearly every major community in the ancient world. It involved many gods and heroes, but had a very definite start involving a few key figures. Who is primarily to blame for the start of the Trojan War? Why does this person (or god) deserve the bulk of the blame?
5. Examine creation from another culture: according to ancient Norsemen, how and why was the earth created?
6. Consider the story of Pygmalion and Galatea. Why did George Bernard Shaw use this myth as the title for his play?
7. How is Henry Higgins similar to the character Pygmalion? How is he different? (NB: Please do not give me differences in setting or plot: e.g. "Henry Higgins was not an ancient Greek." "Henry Higgins did not sculpt a statue." Consider the traits of the two characters, not their circumstances.)
8. How is Eliza Doolittle similar to the character of Galatea? How is she different? (See note for item #7)

Due Date

Both your marked copy of Pygmalion and your typed essay answers will be due on

Friday, August 18, 2017.

Should you have any questions regarding next year's English course or any of the two summer reading assignments, please feel free to contact the IB office at Gateway at (407) 935-3600.

Have a happy and productive summer. We all look forward to seeing you this fall.