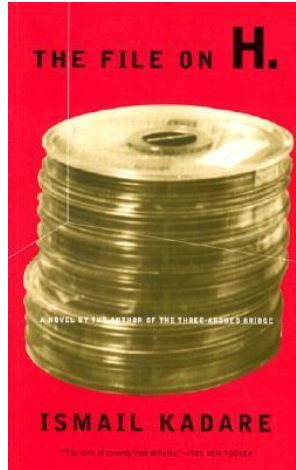


Summer Assignment for Rising Seniors (2024-25)



Part 1:

Please read Ismail Kadare's novel, *The File on H.*, this summer. You can order the book with this ISBN: 978-1611457995. Used copies are perfectly fine to use for class. You will write a response to this novel in class during the first full week of school. I will base the assignment on an IB assessment you'll take at the end of your senior year. I will explain the details when you return, but in the meantime, read and annotate the book carefully.

The novel is a satire of the communist dictatorship in Albania. The plot revolves around two scholars who travel to Albania to research the Homeric Question—whether Homer actually existed and composed the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Their motives are misinterpreted by the government, which tracks and reports their every move.

In order to build your prior knowledge on these topics, review the information linked below:

For general information on Albania's history and culture, visit Britannica's webpage. Read the entire page, but pay close attention to the sections on King Zog and the dictator Enver Hoxha, as well as the information on language, the arts, and cultural life. [Britannica: Albania](#)

View the video link for information on Albania's communist dictatorship. The segments on the bunkers and pervasive surveillance will give you a sense of the paranoia that gripped the country. You'll see this attitude reflected in the novel. [France 24: Albania—A Legacy of Dictatorship](#)

View these videos to get a sense of some of the controversies surrounding a monument to the former dictator, Enver Hoxha. [European Journal: Albania—Conflict over the Hoxha Memorial](#); [Focus on Europe: Is the New Tirana Pyramid Erasing Albania's Communist Past?](#)

View this clip from an old documentary on the Homeric Question. The researchers are studying the Irish oral tradition in one segment. Their recording method is similar to what you'll find in the novel. [Homer and the Oral Traditions](#)

Part 2:

Write a draft of your Common App college essay for at least 1 prompt. I will collect these for a grade as soon as we get Google Classroom up and running in the first full week of senior year. Build on the momentum from the brainstorming session in May. Take the time to polish your draft before submitting it to me in August.