

IB Literature HL1/AP Literature & Composition Summer Assignment for Rising Juniors 2025

Goals:

This assignment seeks to prepare students for the IB Literature HL Essay and oral exam in the following ways:

- Cultivating an understanding of the challenges displaced people face in their lives, both before and after their displacement
- Detecting themes and thematic complexities within literature about displaced people
- Recognizing the creative choices an author makes in depicting the experiences of displaced people
- Evaluating the impact of the author's creative choices
- Developing a broader understanding of an author's style by reading a selection of his or her work

Task Overview:

IB Literature is essentially a world literature class that focuses not only on aesthetic appreciation but also the impact of global issues on the creation and reception of literary texts. Your summer assignment this year is to read from a collection of short stories and essays from authors from around the world. You can access this collection on Schoology in the Class of 2027 course.

First, each of you will read EITHER Salman Rushdie's essay, "Imaginary Homelands," or Derek Walcott's Nobel Prize Lecture, "The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory." It is your choice which essay you read. These essays will create a conceptual framework for discussions of literature at various points in the course. They are dense and will require you to carve out at least an hour to read them thoughtfully.


The four remaining collections feature short stories and nonfiction by authors who write about displaced or diasporic communities from around the world. I would like you to choose TWO authors and read all of the texts (short stories and nonfiction) in their respective folders (Cisneros, Danticat, Gordimer, Nguyen). Before choosing, you might look up information about the authors' lives from reputable sources.


These stories will form the basis of discussion and writing when you return to school. For now, though, your assignment is to read carefully, annotate for details that merit a closer look in discussion, make note of patterns or themes, and develop discussion questions to bring to class. I will group you by author when you return to school, so be prepared to discuss!

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Short Story/Essay Index

Read either Salman Rushdie's essay, "Imaginary Homelands," or Derek Walcott's Nobel lecture, "The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory." Then choose two of the authors listed below. Read all of the selected titles for your chosen authors.

Sandra Cisneros	Collection Title	Selection Title
	<i>Woman Hollering Creek</i> (the story that the collection is named after is a good one to start with)	"Barbie-Q"
		" <u>Bien</u> Pretty"
		"Little Miracles, Kept Promises"
		"Mericans"
		"Woman Hollering Creek"
	<i>A House of My Own: Stories from My Life</i> (nonfiction/autobiographical narratives)	"Epilogue: <i>Mi Casa Es Su Casa</i> "
		"Natural Daughter"
		" <i>Pilón: Infinitvo</i> "

Edwidge Danticat	Collection Title	Selection Title
	<i>Krik? Krak!</i>	"Nineteen Thirty-Seven"
		"Epilogue: Women Like Us"
	<i>The Dew Breaker</i> (A novel where the chapters are interlinked short stories. Must read in the order given at right.)	"The Book of the Dead"
		"The Book of Miracles"
		"The Dew Breaker"
	<i>Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work</i> (nonfiction/essays)	"Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work"
		"Daughters of Memory"

Nadine Gordimer	Collection Title	Selection Title
	<i>Jump and Other Stories</i>	"Keeping Fit"
		"My Father Leaves Home"
		"Once Upon a Time"
		"The Ultimate Safari"
	<i>Six Feet of the Country</i>	"Six Feet of the Country"
	<i>Something Out There</i>	"Something Out There" (novella scanned in 3 parts)

Viet Thanh Nguyen	Collection Title	Selection Title
	<i>The Refugees</i>	"Black-Eyed Women"
		"Fatherland"
		"The Americans"
		"The Transplant"
		"War Years"