Welcome to IB Language and Literature! Summer is a time to relax, rest, and rejuvenate after a year’s hard work; as well, it offers us the occasion to ready for a new year. Summer reading provides students with the opportunity to escape into a good book while also preparing them for success in the upcoming school year. Reading is the key to success and provides students with limitless opportunities for the future.

All IB Language and Literature students will be asked to read ONE book during the summer months. Please choose one of the two listed below.

*Bear Town* by Fredrik Backman

*The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

Both modern novels address topics that will be explored in year 1, part 1 of the IB English course: gender (inequality, constructions of masculinity and femininity), language and social relations (social and professional status, race), language and power (linguistic imperialism and propaganda), and language and taboo (swearing and political correctness). Additionally, selected texts represent both national and international perspectives centered on a culture of sports.

After reading one of the books above, you will write an 800-1000 word blog post that is due on the first day of school. Your blog post should:

- Have a compelling introductory statement that includes the title and author.
- Provide a BRIEF summary of the text (only include enough background information to prepare the reader for the rest of the bog – the general plot).
- State a thesis related to one of the topics in the paragraph above – this statement controls the ENTIRE BLOG and should represent the main idea.
- Develop the thesis in well-organized body paragraphs – address one piece of evidence per paragraph, don’t stray off topic or summarize the plot.
- Bring closure to the piece (bring together the ideas and reinforce the thesis statement).
- End with a CLINCHER statement (what message does the author want you to take away or what call for action can you raise in response to the central message).
- Written in MLA format.
Some ideas or suggestions to help you craft your blog are listed here, but feel free to consider other ideas for your piece. In your blog discuss:

1. How the language in the text affirms, reinforces, or challenges the role of gender in society (inequality, constructions of masculinity and femininity).
2. How the language in the text addresses social relations within the two communities.
3. How the language and storytelling nature of the text address power, positively or negatively.
4. How the language in the text use taboo to create tension or raise a call for action for the reader.

The purpose of the essay is to establish a baseline to inform writing instruction in the fall, so do your best and your own work (see the IB Policy on Academic Honesty attached). Concentrate on the focus, content, style and organization of the essay, and less about writing for the teacher. This is an opportunity for you to think and develop your voice on issues raised through contemporary literature. Once you feel you have written an effective blog (remember the audience of the blog is the world, not a teacher), you should reread it for grammar and conventions – nothing distracts a reader more than usage errors or simple mistakes.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall—enjoy your reading and have a wonderful summer!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that may come up over the summer.

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