



LANGUAGE ARTS II — HONORS (PRE-IB)

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[CLASS BLOG: <http://vhspibhla.blogspot.com/>]

DEAR STUDENT AND PARENTS:

Welcome to an exciting new school year at Valencia High School! I look forward to working with you and getting to know you throughout the year. As a Pre-International Baccalaureate

Honors (PIBH) student, I know that you are accustomed to a rigorous academic environment and already possess a strong work ethic, advanced study skills, and a robust ability to manage your schoolwork along with extracurricular activities. As such, I have high expectations of you, but also know you are highly capable of meeting them.

PRE-IB PHILOSOPHY

Most importantly, the Language Arts II PIBH curriculum is geared toward preparing you for the intensive IB program you will begin next year. Therefore, the **genuine** efforts you take in reading, annotating, writing, listening, discussing, and creating are crucial to your development and success as a scholar.

LITERATURE-BASED LEARNING

In Language Arts II PIBH, literature is used as the basis for deepening your current skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language conventions. Class assignments, compositions, and activities will be based on these areas, which encompass the California State Content Standards for Language Arts (grades 9-10, 11-12). The school site goals for this course are as follows:

1. expose students to four different genres of literature (fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry)
2. include works that reflect different cultural viewpoints and historical time periods
3. prepare students for the material to be covered during the IB/AP programs/exams...
4. complete critical essays, seminars, research, and projects utilizing various literary theories and the elements of depth, complexity, and content imperatives.

LITERATURE SELECTIONS

With the rationale of preparing students for the International Baccalaureate program, the following is a list of literary works that meet and exceed the demands of the new Common Core State Standards for Language Arts and the IB organization.

Although NOT REQUIRED, students are encouraged to purchase/obtain the following literature for the primary reason of BEING ABLE TO WRITE NOTES OR HIGHLIGHT KEY PASSAGES *IN YOUR OWN* personal copies. If unable to obtain personal copies, a school-issued book will be provided through course instructors.

1ST & 2ND QUARTERS — THE AMERICAN NOVEL

- ☐ A SEPARATE PEACE by John Knowles
- ☐ OF MICE AND MEN by John Steinbeck
- ☐ TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD by Harper Lee

2ND QUARTER — DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE, POETRY

- ☐ FAHRENHEIT 451 by Ray Bradbury
- ☐ PERRINE'S SOUND AND SENSE: AN INTRODUCTION TO POETRY (CHAPTERS 9-16)
- ☐ The Poetry of Pablo Neruda

3RD QUARTER — DRAMA

- ☐ OEDIPUS REX by Sophocles (translated by Bernard Knox)
- ☐ THE TAMING OF THE SHREW by William Shakespeare

4TH QUARTER — MAGICAL REALISM, PHILOSOPHY

- ☐ BLESS ME, ULTIMA by Rudolfo Anaya
- ☐ SIDDHARTHA by Herman Hesse
- ☐ INDEPENDENT PROJECT

FILMS TO COINCIDE WITH MAJOR WORKS OF LITERATURE

During the course of the year, students will view a number of films related to the major works of literature studied. While these movies are considered appropriate for children aged 13 and older, school policy requires that parents are notified when movies will be shown in class that have a rating of PG or PG-13 and that you provide your permission for students to watch the films. By signing and returning the form attached to this syllabus, you are indicating that your child has permission to view the following films:

- TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1962) directed by Robert Mulligan, not rated
- OF MICE AND MEN (1992) directed by Gary Sinise, rated PG-13
- MINORITY REPORT (2002) directed by Steven Spielberg, PG-13
- IL POSTINO (1994) directed by Michael Radford, PG
- FINDING FORRESTER (2001) directed by Gus Van Sant, PG-13
- VIDEO CLIPS FROM THE LORD OF THE RINGS (PG-13), HARRY POTTER (PG-13), THE MATRIX (PG-13 VERSION, ORIG. R)
- OEDIPUS REX (1992) directed by Julie Taymor, not rated
- THE TAMING OF THE SHREW (1967) directed by Franco Zeffirelli, not rated
- 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (1999) directed by Gil Junger, PG-13
- SHE'S THE MAN (2006) directed by Andy Fickman, PG-13
- INCEPTION (2010) DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN, PG-13