IB Language A: Literature Year 1 (Juniors)
Summer Reading & Reflection Assignments
DP21

**For questions about the assignment or more information:**
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**Rationale:** The summer reading assignment will be your introduction to an exciting two-year challenge to complete the IB Literature course as you explore **Readers, Writers, and Texts** within **Time and Place.**

Required Texts:
*Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*- Jonathan Culler
*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*- Milan Kundera

All books can be purchased very inexpensively at amazon.com or thriftbooks.com and may be found at the public library. It is not required that students own the text, although *Literary Theory* will be a useful reference piece throughout the year.

Assignments will be due the first week of school. You will submit a hard copy and to Turnitin.com. You will create your account once school begins.

## *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* Novel Assignment:

 1)  Read *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera.

2)  Provide a minimum of forty annotations as you read. An annotation is a brief note where you might place the observation of an idea, a question you have about the text, a stylistic or cultural observation, or any other thoughts that you have about the reading. Stay away from making notes of simple plot summary. You may use post it notes, or collect your observations on paper or electronically. If the book is yours, you may also write in the book directly.

3) Focus on the questions below to guide your annotations and frame your analysis. Upon your return to school, you will use your annotations to form complete responses to essay prompts related to the following:

· How does the time and place in which the story is set contribute to the importance of the novel?
· What is the most difficult part of the story to connect with your own life?
· What is the easiest part of the story to connect with your own life?
· How do the issues and events in this work connect with your own time and place?
· What is one of the most interesting literary / stylistic techniques or devices used by Milan Kundera in this is novel?
## *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*-Guidelines for Short Writing Responses

For each chapter of *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*, you will submit a short piece writing in reaction to the reading. A short writing should be typed, about one and half to three pages long, double spaced in proper MLA. These responses are questioning and reflective; do not fret about being right or having the correct answer or reading or being brilliant. This is writing to figure things out, not writing to establish the final word.

These short writings constitute, more or less, a reader's journal--or the groundwork for one and will be due within the first week of school. While these are reflective and subjective responses, please maintain a mature voice and an academic tone.

Each one should follow a specific format:

1.  From each chapter, select a quote. You can pick it because you like it, because it confuses you, because it fascinates you, because you feel there is something to say about it and you want to figure out what that something is. Reproduce that quote at the beginning of your writing. Provide page numbers.

2.  Explain where the quotation comes in the piece. Where does it come in the argument? What do you think your selected passage is doing? Is it introducing an idea? Is it instantiating a particular claim? Is it making a claim?

3.  Now gloss, or discuss, this quote. Try to put it in your own words. What does it mean? How does it fit into the broader argument or arguments in the essay?

4.  What questions does it provoke for you? What connections might you want to make, to other readings from this class, to readings you have done elsewhere, to other objects, examples, artifacts?