



The IB Middle Years Program at Deal Middle School



8th Grade Summer Assignment

Parents and rising 8th grade students:

We are excited to work with you in our classes next year! 8th grade Language A is designed around several International Baccalaureate (IB) themes. The best way to prepare for the challenging work ahead is to build up background knowledge on these “big ideas” that will help each student participate in class discussions once the year begins. The list below offers two to three selections for each IB theme covered in our course. The novels range widely in reading level and content; please pick the books that you feel are the most appropriate for you or your student. 🌶️ Each chili pepper represents an increased degree of difficulty. We encourage all parents and family members to have discussions with students about the content of books movies and music.

To complete the summer assignment you may read **three books and complete one of the writing assignment prompts listed at the bottom of the back page**. Each book must come from a different IB theme; you may also **view one movie or one musical selection** from the remaining two categories. Our aim is to expose each child to each theme.

Personal and Social Identity (Area of Interaction: Health and Social Education)

Texts

Walk Two Moons: Sharon Creech 🌶️

House on Mango Street: Sandra Cisneros 🌶️🌶️

The Color of Water: James Mc Bride 🌶️🌶️🌶️🌶️

Films

Invictus directed by Clint Eastwood (PG-13)

Smoke Signals directed by Chris Eyre (PG-13)

Music

Dream Catcher: Kevin Locke

Latinas: Women of Latin America: Various Artists

Revolution and Societal Organization (Area of Interaction: Human Ingenuity)

Texts

Revolution is not a Dinner Party: Ying Compestine 🌶️

Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary: Walter Dean Myers 🌶️🌶️🌶️

Films

Malcolm X directed by Spike Lee (PG-13)

Music

Chick Webb and His Orchestra: Stomping at the Savoy

Choosing a Journey (Area of Interaction: Environments)

Texts

Light in the Forest: Conrad Richter 🌶️🌶️

Into the Wild: Jon Krakauer 🌶️🌶️🌶️🌶️

Films

Into the Wild directed by Sean Penn (R)

Music

Chavez Ravine: Ry Cooder

Oppression as an Institution (Area of Interaction: Human Ingenuity)

Texts

Maus: Art Spiegelman 🌶️🌶️

First they Killed My Father: Loung Ung 🌶️

Films

Boy in the Striped Pajamas directed by Mark Herman (PG13)

Darfur Now directed by Ten Braun (PG)



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Paper Clips directed by Eliot Berlin (G)

Music

A Jazz Shabbat Service: Jose Bowen

Music of Cambodia: Produced by David Parsons

What is the Nature of Freedom? (Area of Interaction: Community and Service)

Texts

Habibi: Naomi Shihab 🌶️

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood: Marjane Satrapi 🌶️🌶️

Before we were Free: Julia Alvarez 🌶️🌶️

Films

Persepolis directed by Vincent Paronnaud (PG13)

Romeo and Juliet directed by Baz Luhrmann (PG13)

Music

Cuban Nights: Various Artists

Persepolis: Olivier Bernet

Recommended Films:

(Please note the movie versions of *Persepolis*, *Into the Wild* and *Malcolm X* vary greatly from the book versions assigned above. Expect no credit for watching the movie rather than reading the book—please feel free to do both!)

Writing Assignment Prompts: This is our first chance to read your writing for this year. It gives us our first indication of your style and level of writing.

🌶️ **Writing Prompt:** Identify a character in one of the books that responded or reacted to a situation in a way that surprised you. In the form of a five-paragraph letter, give advice to the character about three specific things they should have done differently.

Your product should be a five-paragraph essay:

- An introductory paragraph telling about the character and laying out your three recommendations for different action
- Three paragraphs each identifying one of the three things the character should have done differently and explaining your point
- A concluding paragraph summing up points and explaining why the reader should take an interest in your argument about the character.

🌶️🌶️ **Writing Prompt:** Every character is a complex creation by an author. Choose one of the main characters that you encountered on this summer's reading list. Determine several character traits, emotions or motivations that one character presents in the novel. Then craft a thesis explaining how three of these character traits influence the plot of your story.

Your product should be a five-paragraph essay:

- An introductory paragraph telling about the character and laying out your three chosen traits and how they affect the plot
- Three paragraphs each addressing and explaining one of the character traits mentioned above
- A concluding paragraph summing up points and explaining why the reader should take an interest in your argument.

The writing assignment is due on Friday, August 27th.