

# 2019 IB Summer Reading (Juniors)

ALL students taking IB Literature HL, Theory of Knowledge (DP), and/or GT Independent Study (CP), are required to read ONE of the following memoirs (see below) and complete all three essay assignments.

A memoir is autobiographical, with a focus on a specific defining period in the author's life.

**Select the memoir you would most like to read from the three memoirs listed below.**

*The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande

Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years in this “compelling . . . unvarnished, resonant” (*BookPage*) story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to “El Otro Lado” (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to “El Otro Lado” to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father.

*Educated: A Memoir* By Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride

Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success. *The Color of Water* touches readers of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.

## **Assignment 1: Exploration into IB & Education**

**Prompt:** Write about why you chose to be a CP or DP student and what you hope to gain from your time in your chosen program. Be specific. Then, write about what education means to you. Why does education matter, in general? How do you hope to grow as you complete your high school education? What education do you hope to receive in the future? Why?

**Requirements:** 300-500 words (please include a word count at the bottom of your assignment), typed, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman size 12 font, MLA heading, creative title

## **Assignment 2: Reflective Writing**

**Prompt:** Write about the most significant event from your life. Be specific and detailed. This moment doesn't *have* to be something difficult or overly serious, but should reflect an event that impacted you in a way, whether negative or positive.

**Requirements:** 500-700 words (please include a word count at the bottom of your assignment), typed, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman size 12 font, MLA heading, creative title

## **Assignment 3: Memoir Reflection**

**Prompt:** Write about the most significant moment in the life of the author from your selected memoir. Discuss the impacts of this event on the author, personal connections to this event, and what you personally learned from this event. This assignment should reflect a thoughtful read of your memoir as a whole.

**Requirements:** 300-500 words (please include a word count at the bottom of your assignment), typed, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman size 12 font, MLA heading, creative title

As an incoming participant in the International Baccalaureate Program, you have signed a contract which states that you “will not engage in any form of academic dishonesty or malpractice.” Please know that all submissions are due to the HUB by Friday, September 6th and will be checked for plagiarism. Enjoy your summer; we await your submissions with great anticipation!