

Literature A - Higher Level

11th Grade IB [5 periods per week]

Ms. Sheila Noonan

Course Description

The study of literary, non-literary, visual, and performance texts provides a focus for understanding how meaning is constructed within belief or value systems, and how it is negotiated across multiple perspectives generated by single or multiple readers. Thinking critically about texts, as well as responding to, producing, or performing them, leads to an understanding of how language sustains or challenges ways of thinking and being. The study additionally builds an awareness that all texts may be understood in relation to their form, content, purpose audience, and their associated contexts, such as social, historical and cultural circumstances.

Students will focus exclusively on literary texts adopting a variety of approaches to textual criticism. Students will explore the nature of literature, the aesthetic function of literary language and textually, and the relationship between literature and the world.

Timeline

Semester One: Do I define the world, or does the world define me?

- **Readers, Writers and Texts:** In what ways is meaning constructed, negotiated, expressed and interpreted? How does the structure or style of a literary text affect meaning?
- **Time and Space:** How important is cultural or historical context to the production and reception of a literary text? How do literary texts reflect, represent or form a part of cultural practices?
- **Intertextuality:** How valid is the notion of a "classic" literary text?

Semester Two: Can we change the world? What control do we have?

- **Time and Space:** How important is cultural or historical context to the production and reception of a literary text? How does the meaning and impact of a literary text change over time?
- **Intertextuality** How do literary texts adhere to and deviate from conventions associated with literary forms? In what ways can diverse literary texts share points of similarity? How can literary texts offer multiple perspectives of a single issue, topic, or theme?