

Summer Assignment  
IB English II  
Ms. Swails  
2021-2022

Future students,

Welcome to IB English II! Prior to our first day of class, please read the provided information on literary criticism. I invite you to read a text or view a film that would allow you to create your first critique following one of the criticism types listed in the attachment. I have included a few suggestions to consider when selecting a text or film. In addition, I encourage you to select a criticism category that you consider pertinent to your personal goals. For example, if you plan to major in Sociology or Political Science, you may want to select Sociological Criticism as your preferred topic. Please follow “The King’s English” sheet for formatting the document properly. The essay must be five paragraphs and approximately two pages in length. You will submit a hard copy on the first day of class. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for the assignment, I will hold a Zoom Q and A session for incoming sophomores on **May 20 at 3:30 pm**.

Miss Swails is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Miss Swails' Zoom Meeting for Incoming Sophomores 2021-2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sdhc.zoom.us/j/81324814165?pwd=d296eTYrM2w2bWwvRUY3U0o3c1RvZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 2481 4165

Passcode: SWAILS20!

Sincerely,

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## “Types of Literary Criticism”

### **Readers, Writers, Texts**

Gender Criticism: This method suggests that sexual identity affects a literary work. In the past, gender criticism relied heavily on the feminist movement and aimed to attack the patriarchal structure dominating Western society. Modern gender criticism may include analysis on how masculinity, sexual identity, and social norms impact gender inequality. The critic must consider, “how does the author use gender to question societal norms and patriarchal structures?”

Suggestions:

*The Cherry Orchard* By Anton Chekhov

*Speak* By Laurie Halse Anderson

*I am My Own Wife* By Doug Wright

*The Bell Jar* By Sylvia Plath

*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* By Edward Albee

*For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicided When The Rainbow is Enuf* By Ntozake Shange

### **Time and Space**

Biographical Criticism: This approach emphasizes the importance of the author’s life in comprehending the work. In order to properly create a biographical critique, one must become familiar with biographical information about the author. While it is a practical approach to deciphering meaning in a text, a biographical critic must be careful not to take facts of a writer's life too far in criticizing the works of that writer. The critic must consider, “how will this biographical information reveal more about the text?”

Suggestions:

*The Things They Carried* By Tim O’Brien

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

*Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* By Maya Angelou

*Trevor Noah: Son of Patricia*

*A Step From Heaven* By An Na

Sociological Criticism: The sociological critic observes cultural, political, and economic factors. This technique examines the significance of studying the artists’ society to determine its impact on the text. It may address the similarities and differences between the actual setting and society

and the fictional one (when applicable). The critic must consider, “what is the author conveying culturally, politically, or economically about society?”

Suggestions:

*1984* By George Orwell

*Death of a Salesman* By Arthur Miller

*The Prince* By Niccolò Machiavelli

*The Kite Runner* By Khaled Hosseini

*The Glass Castle* By Jeannette Walls

*The Color of Water* By James McBride

### **Intertextuality**

Mythological Criticism: This type aims to discuss latent, recurring universal truths, archetypes, and symbols. Insight into numerous content areas may be explored (anthropology, history, psychology, and religion). The critic must consider, “how do authors utilize common truths and symbols to enhance their writing?”

Note: This selection requires examining multiple mediums. You may opt to use a past text from last year as **ONE** of your selections. For example, you may use the text *The Odyssey* and view the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Or *Troy* and *Iliad*.

*Suggestions:*

Read *The Yellow Fairy Book* and view a modern film containing one of the tales

Read *Lysistrata* By Aristophanes and view *Chi-raq*

Read *The Hero's Journey* By Joseph Cambell and select a film that connects to his theories on mythology

Read *The Day of Brahma* By Stefania Dimitrova and select a classical Hindu text for comparison

Read *Oedipus Rex* By Sophocles and *King Oedipus* By Tawfiq Al-Hakim

Read *The Saga of the Volsungs* by Jackson Crawford and view an episode or film containing one of the myths in the text

We will also examine the following types of criticism in quarter one:

Deconstructionist Criticism	Formalist Criticism	Historical Criticism	Psychological Criticism
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Extra Resources:

[IB Style Sheet](#)

[Summer Assignment Student Examples](#)

