

IB Language A1 (HL – Year 2)
Summer Reading Assignments

RUNNING IN THE FAMILY – Michael Ondaatje

Assignment 1 – Literary Analysis (Holistic Views)

For each of the sections of the book, you will:

- a. Summarize the Significant Aspects (this should be complete yet concise)
- b. Discuss Themes, Symbols and Motifs
- c. Discuss the Overall Tone/Mood of the Section
- d. List the Main Characters and Write a Character Analysis for Each
- e. Discuss Similarities Between the Chapters in the Section
- f. Choose (2) Key Passages (about 30 lines each) That You Feel Best Represent the Overall Message of the Section and Explain Reasoning/Justification for Your Choices

Sections to Cover:

- a. Asian Rumors
- b. A Fine Romance
- c. Don't Talk to Me About Matisse
- d. Eclipse Plumage
- e. The Prodigal
- f. What We Think of Married Life
- g. The Ceylon Cactus and Succulent Society

Assignment 2 – Analytical Commentary

Read the essay, “Memory, Identity and Empire in Michael Ondaatje’s Running in the Family” by Paul Jay. Use the discussion questions to analyze the essay and develop an 800-1200 word commentary on the essay and its relationship to the memoir. Be sure to use examples from the essay/memoir to support your ideas. (Essay and Questions attached)

*NOTE – The reference to “KIP” and the quote found on page 8 of the essay come from Ondaatje’s novel **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** and are used to make comparison.

Assignment 3 – Family Tree Project

Each of you will complete a family tree that traces your family roots back to your Maternal and Paternal Grandparents. You will need to choose a “theme” for your family tree. This could be something that represents your family or something that is significant in your life. Be sure to include your relatives for three generations (grandparents, parents/aunts/uncles, you/siblings/cousins) and also talk with your parents and grandparents and find out a few interesting facts or anecdotes you would be willing to share with the class that are unique about you and your family. Be creative....your presentation is only limited by your own imagination.

Due Dates:

Assignment 1 – September 11, 2017

Assignment 2 – September 18, 2017

Assignment 3 – TBD

Assignments are due from all students on the posted dates by midnight of that day. Students can e-mail assignments to jwalls@wcpss.net.