



Teacher: Brandon McCullough

Course Duration: January 2026 – May 2027

Welcome to IB English Literature

This course explores the art of literary expression through various texts, genres, and cultural perspectives. Students will engage with literature to develop critical analysis, personal expression, and global understanding. The course emphasizes both the beauty and complexity of language and storytelling.

Course Overview

The curriculum is divided into themes and literary explorations over two years. Students will encounter a mix of classical and contemporary works, culminating in assessments designed to test their analytical and creative abilities.

Year 1: January 2026 – June 2026

1. Introduction to IB Literature

- Overview of areas of exploration and key concepts (identity, culture, and perspective).
- Introduction to assessments and learner expectations.

2. Texts and Themes

- **The Odyssey (February–March 2026)**
 - Themes: Identity, transformation, and heroism.
 - Activities: Learner Profile reflections, discussions on global issues, and formative Paper 1 practice.
- **The Bloody Chamber: And Other Stories (March–April 2026)**
 - Themes: Transformation, representation, and creativity.
 - Activities: Global issue identification and guided literary analysis practice.
- **Persepolis (April–May 2026)**
 - Themes: Culture, identity, and resistance.

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- Activities: Class presentations on global issues and formative oral practice.
 - **Poetry by Carol Ann Duffy (May–June 2026)**
 - Themes: Representation, creativity, and perspective.
 - Activities: Poem analysis presentations, summative Paper 1 practice, and Paper 2 preparation.
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Year 2: September 2026 – May 2027

1. Texts and Themes

- **Chronicle of a Death Foretold (September 2026)**
 - Themes: Honour, morality, and societal expectations.
 - Activities: Quick writes and responses to global issues.
- **The Crucible (October 2026)**
 - Themes: Authority, identity, and truth.
 - Activities: Summative Individual Oral presentations.
- **The Penelopiad (November 2026)**
 - Themes: Perspective, intertextuality, and transformation.
 - Activities: Comparative analysis with *The Odyssey* and HL Essay planning.
- **Poetry by Pablo Neruda (December 2026)**
 - Themes: Creativity, communication, and transformation.
 - Activities: Paper 1 practice and textual connections.
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream (January–February 2027)**
 - Themes: Creativity, culture, and representation.
 - Activities: Mock exams (Paper 1 and 2) and HL Essay rough draft submissions.
- **Half of a Yellow Sun (March 2027)**
 - Themes: Identity, culture, and historical memory.

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- Activities: HL Essay final submission.
- **Wuthering Heights (April–May 2027)**
 - Themes: Transformation, communication, and representation.
 - Activities: Summative Paper 1 and 2 practice.

2. Assessments

- **Internal Assessments (IA):**
 - Individual Oral: Focus on global issues and connections to texts.
 - HL Essay: A detailed literary analysis of a chosen text.
- **External Assessments:**
 - Paper 1: Literary analysis of unseen texts (prose and poetry).
 - Paper 2: Comparative analysis of studied texts.

Skill Development

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze themes, techniques, and textual features across diverse genres.
- **Communication:** Present ideas effectively in oral and written forms.
- **Intertextual Understanding:** Draw connections between texts and global issues.
- **Research Skills:** Develop strong arguments supported by evidence from texts.

Resources

- **Primary Texts:**
 - *The Odyssey, The Bloody Chamber, Persepolis, Wuthering Heights, The Penelopiad, Chronicle of a Death Foretold, Half of a Yellow Sun, A Midsummer Night's Dream.*
 - Poetry by Carol Ann Duffy and Pablo Neruda.
 - **Digital Tools:** InThinking, JSTOR, online resources for global issues.
 - **Classroom Technology:** Personal computers, audio recording devices for orals.
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Why Study IB English Literature?

This course goes beyond the study of literature. It fosters an appreciation of diverse voices, challenges assumptions, and encourages personal and academic growth. Whether analyzing ancient epics or contemporary novels, students will learn to think critically, express themselves clearly, and connect literature to the world around them.