

Summer Reading Assignment

Text: *The Thing Around the Neck*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This is the first text we will study in depth for our IB 401 curriculum. Please read all **12** stories in the collection over the summer to give you a strong foundation for our work together. The IB asks us to draw meaningful connections between all of our texts this year, and this assignment aims to help you begin the process. Either as you read, or once you have finished, complete the written assignment below.

Written Assignment: Making Connections

Respond to the following four prompts, using a **different** story with each one. Be sure to identify the title of the story (written in quotations) at the start of your response. Each response should be a clearly written and well-developed paragraph.

1. Make a **personal connection** to a chosen story in terms of setting, theme, content, character, etc. Why has this element of the story resonated with you?
2. Make a **global or historical connection** between an event or situation in a story in Adichie's collection and a current story in the media or topic/issue studied in history class. How does encountering this issue in Adichie's work make you think more deeply about it?
3. Make an **intratextual connection** (connect **two** stories **within** the collection) in relation to an author's choice--stylistic or literary elements such as narrative point of view, theme, structure of the story, use of symbolism, characterization, setting, etc. How does each story employ the element to shape meaning?
4. Make an **intertextual connection** between a story from the collection and a different literary work you have read in 9th or 10th grade. This connection should also be based upon the author's choices-- theme, character, structure, conflict, etc. What meaningful similarities and/or differences do you find in the ways each text uses this element to convey a message?

Submission: Please have an electronic copy of your written responses ready for submission during the first week back at school.

Assessment: This assignment will be a medium assessment, graded for the following:

- Relevancy of responses to prompts
- Understanding of stories chosen
- Quality of discussion of literary element (questions 3 and 4)

Questions? Feel free to email Ms. Crocker (acrocker@asparis.fr) or Ms. Burlow (aburlow@asparis.fr) for help.

We hope that you enjoy the stories and that you're looking forward to a great year in English class!