

## IB SENIOR ENGLISH HL A1 - SUMMER PROJECT

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OUR TIME TOGETHER, WE ASK THAT YOU READ *TEACHING A STONE TO TALK* THIS SUMMER AND COMPLETE AN OBSERVATIONAL JOURNAL.

### OBSERVATIONAL JOURNAL

IN HER COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, ANNIE DILLARD USES AN EXPERIENCE TO LAUNCH HER WRITING EXPLORATION. AN ENCOUNTER WITH A WEASEL TURNS INTO AN ESSAY ABOUT THE RAW, DIRECTEDNESS OF THE WEASEL IN CONTRAST WITH DOUBTING, ACTION-LESS HUMANS. A VISIT TO CATHOLIC MASS BECOMES RESEARCH ON EXPEDITIONS WHICH BECOMES MUSINGS ON OUR OWN JOURNEYS TO UNDERSTAND A GOD.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO KEEP A SIMILAR JOURNAL OF OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS. FOR EACH ENTRY, HAVE AN OBSERVATION STARTING POINT. THIS CAN BE A NEW PLACE OR A NEW EXPERIENCE. ABOVE ALL, TRY TO SEE SOMETHING NEW OR SEE SOMETHING NEWLY. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH A FRIEND, TRAVEL TO ONE OF PORTLAND'S PARKS THAT YOU HAVE NEVER VISITED. OBSERVE. OR, SPEND A MORNING USING ONLY YOUR LESS DOMINANT HAND. (DRIVERS: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO THIS EXERCISE.)

### EXPERIENCE AT LEAST FOUR OBSERVATIONS.

FOR EACH, WRITE AT LEAST TWO PAGES IN A FREE WRITE FORM. FOLLOW YOUR BRAIN AND TRY NOT TO SHAPE OR DIRECT YOUR WRITING. INCLUDE DRAWINGS, ARTIFACTS, GRAPHS, ANYTHING WITH YOUR WRITING. IN THIS FIRST STEP, YOU ARE WRITING TO OBSERVE AND TO PONDER.

DO NOT INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR COURSE JOURNAL. CREATE A SMALLER SEPARATE JOURNAL FOR THIS PROJECT. WITH EACH ENTRY, RECORD THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF YOUR OBSERVATION.

PLEASE PURCHASE THE TEXT OR PROCURE A COPY FROM THE CHS BOOKROOM BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE SUMMER. WE BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT AND THE TEXT BOTH LEND THEMSELVES TO A CAREFUL YET LEISURELY PACE. WE ADVISE YOU TO DO THE WORK OVER THE COURSE OF THE SUMMER. BE READY TO TURN IN YOUR JOURNAL ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

### THINKING AHEAD...

BELOW YOU WILL FIND THE READING LIST FOR EACH SEMESTER OF STUDY. IN ADDITION TO READING *TEACHING A STONE TO TALK*, YOU MAY WANT TO DO A PRELIMINARY READING OF THE TEXTS ON OUR BOOK LIST. THIS MAY BE A WAY FOR YOU TO BETTER MANAGE THE WORK LOAD OF A RIGOROUS SCHEDULE FULL OF IB CLASSES, AND IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DEVELOP A

DEEPER AND MORE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEXTS WE WILL STUDY.

### FIRST SEMESTER: DETAILED STUDY

*TEACHING A STONE TO TALK* BY ANNIE DILLARD  
*PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* BY JANE AUSTEN  
POETRY OF WILLIAM BLAKE, LANGSTON HUGHES,  
EMILY DICKINSON  
*THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK*  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### SECOND SEMESTER: GENRE STUDY—MEMOIR

*THE WOMAN WARRIOR* BY MAXINE HONG  
KINGSTON  
*THIS BOY'S LIFE* BY TOBIAS WOLFF  
*RUNNING IN THE FAMILY* BY MICHAEL ONDAATJE  
*PAULA* BY ISABEL ALLENDE

## HEY, A LITTLE HELP HERE!?

HERE ARE SOME—ENTIRELY OPTIONAL—“STARTER” TASKS. WHERE YOU GO FROM HERE WILL DEPEND ON WHAT YOU ARE SEEING AND THINKING. WE HAVE SUGGESTED ESSAY PAIRINGS FOR THE ACTIVITIES AS YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO THIS BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER READING THE NAMED ESSAY.

- LOOK FOR AND FIND 3 TO 5 CONTRASTING LEAF SHAPES. USE SIMPLE LINE DRAWINGS TO SKETCH THE LEAVES. THEY SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN A COUPLE MINUTES EACH. LABEL THE SIZE, COLOR, AND KEY FEATURES OF THE LEAF AS WELL AS THE NAME OF THE PLANT IF KNOWN (“LIVING LIKE WEASELS”)
- EXPERIENCE A FOOD YOU HAVE NEVER TASTED BEFORE. DESCRIBE ITS TASTE, TEXTURE, AND COLOR, USING METAPHORS FROM NATURE. (“THE DEER AT PROVIDENCIA”)
- DRAW A UNIVERSE THAT IS LIKE VALERY'S “HEAD-SHAPED”—AND PLACE YOURSELF WITHIN IT. (“TEACHING A STONE TO TALK”)
- GO OUT AND COLLECT VARIOUS SEEDPODS, CONE NUTS, AND/OR GRASSES. ATTACH THEM TO YOUR JOURNAL. CHOOSE ONE TO DRAW. (“ON A HILL FAR AWAY”)
- WITH BINOCULARS, STUDY ONE BIRD'S MOVEMENTS FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN. DRAW A PICTURE OF ITS HEAD ALONE, AND THEN ITS FULL BODY. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE WAY IT MOVES AND THE TASKS IT COMPLETES. (“LENSES”)
- GO TO A PLACE (ALLOW AT LEAST 20 MINUTES) WHERE YOU WILL NOT BE DISTURBED IN ANY WAY. LISTEN CAREFULLY TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND CHRONICLE/LIST ONLY THE SOUNDS YOU HEAR FOR THE FULL TWENTY MINUTES. (“A FIELD OF SILENCE”)
- FIND A PUDDLE OR POND OR SOME BODY OF WATER AND DRAW ITS REFLECTION OF A TREE OR PLANT (“MIRAGES”)