Earl Haig Secondary School

English Department

## Grade 12 (4U)

### Fall 2023

# Independent Reading Project

***Objectives for the IRP:***

* To provide all Grade 12 English students with an Independent Reading Project (IRP) based on the reading (outside of class) of a substantial literary text
* To broaden students’ horizons by linking the reading, inquiry processes, and dialogues around an independent literary text with what is happening in the classroom
* To provide fairness in evaluation for all Grade 12 (4U) students –

1. by having common written responses to the two texts, (one being your dependent text) opportunities for group discussions of the novels with other students, oral reports to the class, and conferences with teachers – types of evaluations that will count towards a student’s overall grade for English 12
2. by having all students write a final literary essay(approximately 750 words) in a timed, supervised period.

***The IRP Process:***

* **Text selection** – Students should approach the IRP with an open mind, not a preconceived plan! Students will be encouraged to explore contemporary fiction published within the last fifteen years – a critically acknowledged work of recent fiction from the short lists of award winners for the Booker Prize (British, recently broadened), Giller or Governor General Prizes (Canadian), Pulitzer Prize (American), or Commonwealth Prize.
* **Response & Reading Notes** – students should make notes for each independent novel. These notes should contain evidence of:
* Meaningful personal response
* Notes on literary techniques employed by the author
* Specific references to the text including quotations
* Reflections on the student’s role as the reader in making sense of the text: setting, character, plot, and themes. (The four food groups)

Students could be evaluated on these notes if their teacher wishes. All students will be asked for a written response to the novels – either in-class or by what they turn in to their teacher.

* **Colloquies** – Throughout the year, class time will be allocated for focused group discussions on specific literary topics. Students will exchange information and ideas about their responses to their novels and will be asked to make connections with each other’s novels, recognizing patterns in how readers talk and what they talk about when they share experiences about literature. Students will be evaluated on oral presentations connected with these discussions.
* **IRP literary essay** – All Grade 12 students will write the IRP essay based on common topics. The paper will be a detailed and thoughtful exploration of the topic, approximately 1,000 words in length. It must make reference to the novels read, and where appropriate, to other literature and themes that have emerged in Grade 12 English. All students will write their papers at the end of the quadmester**.**

***Timeline for the IRP:***

* These dates are guidelines for the IRP process.
* **Week one:**
* students will research their first novels
* Week two: students need to have selected their first independent novel and have it approved by their teacher
* Week Four – students will have completed a minimum of 150 pages and will have begun rich reading notes and will do an in-class response to this first novel
* Week 8 or 9 – colloquies and oral reports will take place in class based on the completion of the novel
* Last month: Essay based on your dependent and independent novels

###### Possible areas for evaluation by strand

Reading & Literature: process notes, reader responses to the two independent novels, colloquies, conferences with teachers

Writing strand: process notes, reader responses to the two independent novels

Oral (language) strand: marks for oral reports and any conferences with teachers

Summative evaluation final essay to count in your reading and writing strands.

Mr. Webster’s IRP LIST

The following books are texts you may choose for your IRP novel study.

Yellow highlight? Former students have enjoyed the following books, and you should feel confident in your selection:

Green highlight? These books have either been turned into TV series or they may be problematic for our needs.

1. ***The Night Watchman*** (Louise Erdrich)
2. ***Demon Copperhead*** (Barbara Kingsolver)
3. ***Shuggie Bain*** (Douglas Stuart)
4. ***The Narrow Road to the Deep North*** (Richard Flanagan)
5. ***Do Not Say We have Nothing*** (Madeleine Thien)
6. ***10 Minutes and 38 Seconds in this Strange World*** (Elif Shafak)
7. ***Half of a Yellow Sun*** (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)
8. ***Five Wives*** (Joan Thomas)
9. ***The Mars Room*** (Rachel Kushner)
10. ***The Underground Railroad*** (Colson Whitehead)
11. ***The Break*** (Katherena Vermette)
12. ***The Orenda***(Joseph Boyden)
13. ***Fraction of the Whole***(Steve Toltz)
14. ***A Tale for the Time Being*** (Ruth Ozeki)
15. ***The Year of the Runaways*** (Sunjeev Sahota)
16. ***The Sympathizer*** (Viet Thanh Nguyen)
17. ***The Fishermen*** (Chigozie Obioma)
18. ***419***  (Will Ferguson)
19. ***Middlesex*** (Jeffrey Eugenides)
20. ***Pachinko*** (Min Jin Lee)