

Earl Haig Secondary School
English Department
Grade 12 (4U)
Fall 2019
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 two substantial literary texts
- To broaden students' horizons by linking the reading, inquiry processes and dialogues around the two independent literary texts 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, 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 on **May 20th** (approximately 1,000 words) in a timed, supervised period.

The IRP Process:

- **Text selection** – Students should approach the IRP with an open mind, not a preconceived plan! For the first selection, students will be encouraged to explore contemporary fiction published within the last ten years – a critically acknowledged work of recent fiction from the short lists of award winners for the Booker Prize (British), Giller or Governor General Prizes (Canadian), Pulitzer Prize (American), or Commonwealth Prize. Selection of the second text will take place after the first novel has been read and when students have a better idea of what would be a good fit with some of the themes, questions and ideas that emerge from in-class discussions with other students and from a discussion with their classroom teacher.
- **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 reader in making sense of the text

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 on **Wednesday, May 20th, 2019**, as appears in the school agenda calendar as a special time that has been set aside for summative evaluations.

Timeline for the IRP:

- These dates are guidelines for the IRP process. The timing may differ slightly from class-to-class **except** for the **May 20th** summative evaluation.

Term 1

- ⇒ September 9th – September 20th - students will research their first novels
- ⇒ Week of September 23rd – students need to have selected their first independent novel and have it approved by their teacher
- ⇒ Week of October 28th – students will have completed reading their novels and reading notes and will do an in-class response to this first novel
- ⇒ Before the December break – colloquies and oral reports will take place in class based on the first novel
- ⇒ Also before the December break – students should have selected their second independent novel and have it approved by their teacher

Term 2

- ⇒ Week of January 6th – the second independent novel/book must be approved
- ⇒ Week of February 18th – students will produce written responses
- ⇒ Following March break – colloquies will take place in class based on the readings of the second novel and with references to the first novels
- ⇒ April – final preparations for the summative evaluation on **May 20th** both in content around the literary topics that have emerged from the IRP and in essay writing lessons that have emerged throughout high school but particularly in Grade 12

Summative evaluation

- ⇒ **Wednesday, May 20th** a timed, in-class essay to be written as a summative evaluation which will count for 15% of the final Grade 12 mark.

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	May 20th final essay to count 15% towards the year-end's 30% summative evaluation

Ms. Lue's IRP LIST

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

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

1. *DeNiro's Game* (Rawi Hage)
2. *Fraction of the Whole* (Steve Toltz)
3. *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (Richard Flanagan)
4. *Fall on your Knees* (Anne Marie Macdonald)
5. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* (Michael Chabon)
6. *Do Not Say We have Nothing* (Madeleine Thien)
7. *Such a Long Journey*(Rohinton Mistry)
8. *A Fine Balance* (Rohinton Mistry)
9. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Junot Diaz)
10. *The Orenda* (Joseph Boyden)
11. *The Slap* (Christos Tsiolkas)
12. *Middlesex* (Jeffrey Eugenides)
13. *The Human Stain* (Philip Roth)
14. *The Goldfinch* (Donna Tart)
15. *Station Eleven* (Emily St. John Mandel)
16. *The God of Small Things* (Arundhati Roy)
17. *A Tale for the Time Being* (Ruth Ozeki)
18. *The Headmaster's Wager* (Vincent Lam)
19. *419* (Will Ferguson)
20. *Through Black Spruce* (Joseph Boyden)