BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES
IB Literature I
SUMMER READING/WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Your Reading Assignments:

1. Please read the plays *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* by Sophocles. Both plays are found in *The Three Theban Plays*. Please be sure to use the translation by Robert Fagles. (Penguin Classics edition, ISBN: 0140444254).

2. In addition, please read the following essays found in *The Three Theban Plays*:
   “Greece and the Theater” (page 13) and
   “The Introduction to *Oedipus the King*” (page 131) - both by Bernard Knox

Your Writing Assignment:

1. **Formal Essay**: Please locate a motif used by Sophocles in either play and write an essay in which you trace its effect throughout the play. A motif is defined as an image that repeats throughout the text. Choose a motif that will give you ample material for discussion and is rich with impact. Include a specific, argumentative thesis and quotes from the text. *Use only the definition of motif provided in the paragraph. Your essay should not trace a theme*. Your assignment will be graded according to the following criteria:
   **A. Purpose**
   - How well do you know and understand the play?
   **B. Organization**
   - How structured is your response?
   **C. Support**
   - How relevant are the references?
   - How well have you analyzed the affects of literary features?
   **D. Style & Mechanics**
   - How accurate, clear and precise is your use of language?

Format & Requirements:
- Blindness is both an important motif and an obvious one. We would encourage you to seek out and write about another motif in the work.
- The writing assignment should be 650-750 words, typed, double-spaced
- Be prepared to submit your essay to turnitin.com on the first day of school. Details will be provided on the first day of class. You will not need to provide a hard copy.
- Please use the definition of motif as stated above for completing your essay
- Use MLA format for proper final draft format and to document quotes and text summary.
- Use 12-pt Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, no cover page.
- Make sure that the final draft of your writing flows smoothly and is free of errors.

IMPORTANT: Your analysis must be based on your reading of the actual text. Don’t bother with SPARKNOTES or any other online source, nor should you copy the ideas on the online site. It is not worth our time as a class, nor your failing grade.
Your essay is due the first day your class section meets. No late assignments will be accepted. No exceptions. Please be sure to have your Sophocles text with you as well.
Please be advised that if you choose to switch literature classes, you will need to complete the summer reading assignment for your new class. Grades earned will not carry over to the class you add.
2. Notes: Our class will begin in September with a discussion of these plays, so please be sure to take adequate notes on both the works and the assigned introductory material. You may be quizzed on the content of the reading, so please be prepared. While there is not a set length or format that you must follow in note-taking, your observations on characterization, stage direction, structure of the play, and important passages will be helpful in class participation and future assignments.

Guided Reading Questions:
Please refer to these questions as you do the summer reading assignment—these questions would be helpful in preparing you for any assessments at the beginning of the year.

1. In the scene with Tireisias from *Oedipus the King*, why does Oedipus get so angry with the prophet?

2. The Classical Greek mind tended to think in terms of Chaos vs. Order rather than Good vs. Evil. How are the themes of Chaos and Order played out in the Theban Plays?

3. Is Fate an outside cosmic force or a personal characteristic?

4. Kings in the play are quick to make judgments and enact laws. Are these quick actions reasonable on their part, or are they often rash actions?

Your reading assignments for this year will also include the following:

Part I: World Literature
*The Cherry Orchard* – Anton Chekhov ISBN: 0140447334

Part IV: School Free Choice