

## **Overview**

Incoming AICE General Paper students are required to read two (2) books over the summer in preparation for this course and subsequent AICE exam. The goal of this summer's reading is not to directly prepare you for your exam, but to initiate you into a conversation about how fiction influences us as readers and as human beings. In the words of Keith Oakley, fiction allows us to "enter a world...and hopefully by the novel's end, we come to better know ourselves and others in our world." Thus, while reading your books, make sure to pay close attention to *your thoughts, feelings, emotions, and reactions* to what is happening on the pages as you read them.

AICE General Paper *is* a college-level class, so if you are looking for ways around completing your summer reading assignment, you should not enroll in this class. Students who do not complete the summer reading—all of it, as spelled out by these guidelines—will be removed from this course. Online summaries, such as those found on *Wikipedia* will not be sufficient to complete your summer reading assignment. If you have any questions, see my website for more information: [jhampton.pbworks.com](http://jhampton.pbworks.com).

## **Why Summer Reading?**

Studies suggest that during the summer months, many students experience a "backslide" in their reading skills. In fact, by the time a student enters high school, they could be upwards of five years behind their peers who have read at least one book per summer since middle school. To help combat this "backslide" of reading skills, students will read and complete an assignment on two novels.

## **Requirements**

1. Choose any two (2) novels from the list on back of this page.
2. Read your chosen novel.
3. While reading, complete the assignment listed on the back of this page. You will be turning in this assignment digitally to *Schoology* during the end of the second week of school.

## **Novel Selections**

Each selection (presented on the next page) includes a brief synopsis to help you make your selection. You may purchase your book (physically or digitally) or check it out from a library. If you find that bookstore prices are too much, check out a used book store or the used section at *Amazon.com*, as many of these books cost less than a few dollars to own. Before you commit to a book, make sure you preview the first couple pages to see if you enjoy that author's writing style.

Title	Summary
1. <i>The Joy Luck Club</i> (Tan)	Made up of sixteen interweaving stories, the novel follows four Chinese-American families and their attempts to integrate into America while maintaining their cultural heritage.
2. <i>Bless Me, Ultima</i> (Anaya)	Set in in 1940s in rural New Mexico, the novel follows Antonio, a young boy who later meets Ultima, an apparent <i>curandera</i> (witch). Antonio must <i>ultimately</i> (no pun intended) decide whether to follow his religion and become a priest, or to follow the secret, ancient ways of Ultima.
3. <i>1984</i> (Orwell)	This novel is set in a dystopian world overseen by a government entity only referred to as "Big Brother," who watches your every move. Its main character, Winston, decides to fight against the government and run away with a woman named Julia. Will he run far enough to escape the clutches of "Big Brother" or be captured and put to death for treason against the state?
4. <i>When Crickets Cry</i> (Martin)	In a small town square of a sleepy Georgia town, seven-year-old Annie sits at her lemonade stand, raising money for her own heart transplant. At a nearby store, Reese flips through the newspaper, thinking about the latest boat he's restoring. As a beat-up bread truck careens around the corner, a strong wind blows Annie's money into the road. Reese looks up in time to see Annie's yellow dress fluttering in the wind as she runs into the road. What happens next will change both of their lives forever...
5. <i>Alas, Babylon</i> (Frank)	Set in the fictional town of Ft. Repose, FL, which is actually based off of Mount Dora, FL, the entirety of the United States has been atomically bombed by Soviet Russia. Those who survived the terrible blasts are left to figure out how to survive in a post-apocalyptic world.

### Your Assignment

Your assignment is to keep a **reading journal** of your thoughts during or after you finish reading each session. During this year, you will be learning several "literary criticisms," each of which will allow you to analyze texts in new and exciting ways. One such criticism is called **reader response**, which seeks to understand the reader's reaction to what is being read (in other words, how you respond to the story). Thus, this journal is simply a record of *your* thoughts and reactions to what you have read. So, as you complete your reading for each day, think about what interested, intrigued, or confused you while you read; there is no right or wrong answer in your journal, only well-expressed thoughts and opinions.

This assignment will be due during the end of the **second week of school**.

- Entries can be hand-written initially, but will be typed and submitted online.
- Each entry should be doubled spaced and be no less than a ½ page (approx. 200-250 words).
- You should aim to write at least 8 entries, even if you manage to read your book in one session. Try to stop to record every 30 minutes to one hour.
- Citations with page numbers are required in each entry; part of being a good reader is extracting parts of the text to comment on. Thus, I expect at least two (2) citations from your reading for every entry. Look for parts of your novel that seem interesting, thought provoking, confusing, or that were particularly inspiring to you.

**AICE General Paper (2014-2015)**  
Summer Reading Information

**Rubric:** See the rubric below for information on how your journal will be graded. See my website—[jhampton.pbworks.com](http://jhampton.pbworks.com)—for a “Mastery” example. Contact me with any additional questions: [jonathan.hampton@marion.k12.fl.us](mailto:jonathan.hampton@marion.k12.fl.us).

<u>Category</u>	<u>Advanced Mastery</u> <u>(100%)</u>	<u>Mastery</u> <u>(85%)</u>	<u>Initial Mastery</u> <u>(70%)</u>	<u>Non-Mastery</u> <u>(0%)</u>
Content	<p>The “Mastery” category, plus:</p> <p>Each entry contains specific and detailed reactions to selected citations from the novels.</p>	<p>All entries are <i>at least</i> a ½, typed (double-spaced) page.</p> <p>Has at least 8 entries.</p> <p>Every entry specifically details what interested, intrigued, or confused you while you read. Entries might detail the plot (<i>what</i> happened) or characters, but focus primarily on the reader’s reactions to those events.</p> <p>Each entry contains two (2) citations with page number references from the reading for that day.</p>	<p>Most entries are a ½, typed (double-spaced) page, but some are less.</p> <p>Has at least 6-7 entries.</p> <p>Most entries specifically detail what interested, intrigued, or confused you while you read, but some lack the specific focus of the reader’s reactions to these events.</p> <p>Most of the entries contain at least 2 citations from the reading for that day.</p> <p>At least half of the entries contain specific page references and reactions to these citations.</p>	<p>Most entries are less than a ½, typed (double-spaced) page.</p> <p>Has 5 entries or less.</p> <p>Most entries are superficially detailed and focus primarily on details in the story (such as, <i>what</i> happened, who this character was, etc.) without giving your reactions.</p> <p>Most entries contain no citations and/or page references in your journal.</p> <p>In addition, entries typically do not make reference to the entire novel.</p> <p><b>STUDENT WILL BE REMOVED FROM AICE GENERAL PAPER.</b></p>