

English III IB—Summer Reading Assignment

The Evolution of Language

The first topic we will discuss during English III IB is the Evolution of Language. It is important for readers to understand the way language has diversified and altered over time as a result of technological advancements. The way one interprets text does not function in the same way as it did before.

Where has the English language come from and where is it going? English has traveled all over the world on the back of British Imperialism and on the airwaves of MTV. Subsequently there are various Englishes, creoles and threatened languages. From Geoffrey Chaucer to Bob Marley, the English language has a rich history all around the world.

For this topic we explore different Englishes, asking ourselves: 'What are the effects of language change?' You do not have to be a linguist to appreciate these linguistic differences. These texts will, however, ask you to think about the origins of English and the social systems that encourage English to evolve.

Required Readings

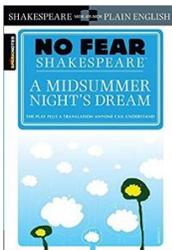
The Boy is Back by Meg Cabot



A Midsummer Night #nofilter by Brett Wright



No Fear Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



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Summer Reading Choices

As you immerse yourself in the summer reads, you should think about the purpose behind these chosen texts. In Meg Cabot's *The Boy is Back*, we witness the way in which authors are deviating from traditional forms of writing. Instead of writing in traditional text with lengthy descriptive paragraphs, authors now use texting, email, newspaper, chatting, etc. to allow dialogue between characters. Furthermore, your exploration of the evolution of language is definitely portrayed through the paired readings. When looking at *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare it is imperative for readers to understand the complexity of language. Shakespeare was able to manipulate his language to create such beautiful, yet demonstrably complex lines. However, as years have progressed authors have found new modes to approaching adaptations of Shakespeare's work to make it more accessible. In Brett Wright's *A Midsummer Night #nofilter*, the short story book takes Shakespeare's language and completely transforms it into daily text vernacular.

Required Assignment

Once you have completed your reading of all three texts, ponder over the following questions:

1. Is there an inherently 'correct' English?
2. Who determines the 'brand' of English we learn and speak?
3. Is there a natural tendency for English to deteriorate? Must we take active measure to 'preserve' English?
4. Will technology change the English language and its standardized forms?

With these four questions in mind, write a 1-2-page essay discussing your own opinions. The essay should also use the summer reading texts as supporting evidence to help your analysis. Do not simply write a summary of what you read. You should try to find something insightful to write about.

Requirements:

1-2 pages

Times New Roman

12pt Font

Double Spaced

MLA format