

**ROBINSON SECONDARY  
SUMMER '09 ASSIGNMENT**

**IB ENGLISH 2 HL**

As you wind down your junior year, we congratulate you on your successes this year in a very challenging academic program, and we wish you a relaxing summer. Before you leave Robinson to begin your summer break, we want to tell you a little bit about the IB English II course so that you will know what to expect and how to prepare.

The first semester will focus on a detailed study of works from different genres. We will read several prose works, one Shakespeare play, and the poetry of several writers. In the second semester, we will focus on a group of works which connect under the theme of Novel and Society. Throughout the year, along with our close reading of literature, we will engage in lively conversation and thoughtful writing.

**Purpose:** In preparation for our work together in the fall, we would like you to purchase and read selected essays (listed below) from Annie Dillard's *Teaching a Stone to Talk*. Reading this book will prepare you for future IB assignments related to close reading and writing commentary, as well as college essays. You may certainly read the entire book, but we will focus on these essays:

“Living Like Weasels”

“In the Jungle”

“The Deer at Providencia”

“Teaching a Stone to Talk”

“God in the Doorway”

“Sojourner”

“Aces and Eights”

**FYI...** Borders in Fairfax and Barnes and Noble at Fair Lakes will stock this book for Robinson students. It is also available, along with other titles for this course, on-line at amazon.com.

**Directions:** Purchase and read the indicated essays in *Teaching a Stone to Talk*. Mark up your book as you read, noting unique images, themes, and key points in the author's life. You may highlight but also write comments, observations and questions in the margins.

**Assessment:** Come to school on the first day with your reading finished and your text annotated. During the first week of school, you will work with one or two other students and focus on a particular passage in further depth. In the second week of school, you will give an oral presentation about the passage. The oral presentation will be scored according to the IB oral rubric, which will be provided at the opening of school.

**Due Date:** The reading is due on the first day of school and the orals will be presented starting the second week of school.

**Contact Persons:**     [Lisa.Green@fcps.edu](mailto:Lisa.Green@fcps.edu)