

Summer Reading for IB I students:  
The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende  
ISBN Number: ISBN: **0553273914**

**(order with <http://akjbookclub.net> to receive a 5% discount and free shipping to your home!)**

Directions: The assignments below require you to get a small spiral notebook, a folder with a center strip that you can attach many pages of loose leaf paper into, or a small binder with loose leaf. Label the first page of your notebook/folder/binder as your “Summer Reading Portfolio for *The House of the Spirits*” and make sure to clearly put your name on it as well. As you work on the assignments, **clearly label each assignment within your portfolio.**

### **BEFORE READING ASSIGNMENT**

#### **Research Assignment #1:**

#### **Info on Chile’s Political Struggles**

Isabel Allende is the niece of Salvador Allende, a former president of Chile. *The House of the Spirits* is set in Chile up through the mid-1970’s. The political climate and various events of the real Chile are at the foundation of Allende’s story in *The House of the Spirits*. Your job is to do some research to get caught up on it. You may use the Internet, other resources in your local library including those things called “books” and those other things that are more specifically called “encyclopedias,” and you may use newspaper articles and other periodicals.

For each question below, write an answer in complete sentences and IN YOUR OWN WORDS. At the end of your answer, document where you found the information you used in your response. If you used more than one source, cite all your sources. YOU MUST DO THIS FOR EACH QUESTION (if you use the same source for more than one question, you may document for the first and refer back to that documentation for later questions; e.g., “See documentation for question \_\_\_\_.”).

1. What was the dominant political climate in Chile between 1910 until approximately 1970?
2. Who comprised the “lower class” in Chile during this time? Who comprised the “upper class” during this time?
3. What was the state of the lower class during 1910-1970? Give specific examples that focus on at least three of the following: poverty level, educational level, political involvement, health, professions, ability to change social class, etc.
4. Who was Salvador Allende and what political significance did he have in Chile?
5. What role did the United States have in the political events of 1973 in Chile?

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**DURING READING ASSIGNMENT: Reader's Journal-4 entries**

Consider the interactions, conflicts, and resolutions that occur when two opposed groups (i.e., women and men, the wealthy and the poor, urban and rural, conservative and revolutionary) come into contact in the novel. Select one such pairing of groups and list four of the most significant occasions when they interact, indicating how each episode reveals the behaviors and values of the two groups. Ask yourself what ideas Allende is communicating by presenting these people and their conflicts. Explain these ideas in **a reader's journal**, citing evidence to support your opinion. Type and paste the passage on the left side of the journal and your response to the passage on the right.

**DURING READING ASSIGNMENT**

**(to be completed before or between pages 200-300 of your reading)**

**Research Assignment #2:**

**Key People in Chile**

Aside from Salvador Allende, there are other people important to Chile's history during the time period of the book (names appear in bold below). Do some research in the medium of your choice (Internet, encyclopedia, etc.). Then write a mini-explanation of:

- who the person is
- how they are tied to the political events of Chile between 1910-1975
- how they are included in *The House of the Spirits*

As always CITE your sources!

The two people you must research are: **Augusto Pinochet** and **Pablo Neruda**