IB English I SL Summer Reading

The IB English Literature curriculum involves higher-level analysis of multicultural and American literature (and why and how the authors of these texts write the way that they do). Please note that some of the books you will read this upcoming year may contain mature content and/or controversial material (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). The IB curriculum is designed so that you will develop an appreciation for various cultures and experiences through an exploration of the world's literature.

This summer you will read The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman (OR an alternate novel from this list (National Book) or this one (Pulitzer) AND the following chapters from How to Read Literature Like a Professor Revised Edition by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN: 978-0062301673). It is important that you have the revised edition as other editions have different chapters.

Required Foster chapters:
1. Every Trip is a Quest
2. Nice to Eat with You
3. Nice to Eat You
9. It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow
12. Is that a Symbol?
24. Don’t Read with your Eyes
One additional chapter of your choice

To demonstrate your understanding of these texts, write a paragraph for each Foster chapter explaining the connection you see between Foster’s points and Gaiman’s novel. You will upload these 7 paragraphs of writing (minimum) to your teacher’s Blackboard site during the first couple days of school.

Please format your document in MLA style and be sure to cite your work (including quotations and paraphrasing). Your final document should contain in-text parenthetical references AND a works cited list.

Note: The Foster text contains many specific references to works of literature. Your paragraphs may NOT use the same examples Foster uses.

When you return to school in the fall, you will be also required to write an in-class essay that will utilize what you have learned from this text.

Remember: Annotating a text is a good way to read more carefully and deeply, and this will also help you prepare for your in-class work. You should annotate as you read.

Note regarding adult content: Good literature is often provocative in some way, and some selections contain adult material that some might find offensive (i.e. offensive language, violence, and/or implied or explicit sexual situations). We invite you to preview any selection that concerns you. If none of the selections are satisfactory, please email the teachers of the class with your concerns, and another will be suggested to meet your needs. The resources listed below can be used to see book reviews and get more information about the books we will use in our class.

- Fairfax County Library http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
- Bartleby.com: Great Books Online http://www.bartleby.com
- Book Reporter http://www.bookreporter.com
- Book Spot http://www.booksport.com/
- Teen Reads http://www.teenreads.com