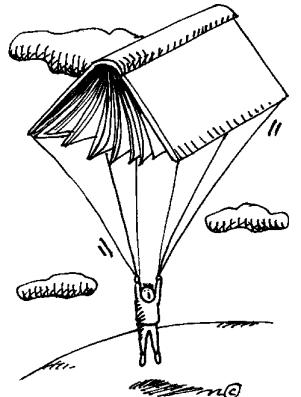


# Independent Study Project (ISP)

## ENG 2D

The ENG 2D1 I.S.P. is an opportunity for students to think and act as independent learners. This is a **novel-based** study which will require that you select and read a novel from the list provided. The main objective of this assignment is to write an essay that deals with one of the key themes addressed in that novel.

The novel you choose for the ISP must not be on any other Bishop Allen Academy course syllabus. A list of suggested titles has been provided for you as a starting point. If there is a novel that you would like to study that is not on the list, consult with your teacher for approval. All texts must be approved by the teacher; some titles are popular, and a limited number of students will be allowed to do their ISPs on any given title.



It is a good idea to purchase your ISP novel, or to borrow a novel from someone you know. You will need to have the novel available to you over a three-month period as you complete the various stages of the ISP process. As you read, you are required to take notes on the elements of the text (plot, setting, character development, themes, symbolism, style, etc). Your reading notes are part of the process of preparing for the literary essay and the creative media product, and must be submitted for evaluation.

### PART A: The Essay and Process Work

#### 1. Reading Response Journals:

Although the ISP is an independent endeavour, it is not meant to be something developed in isolation. We understand a text better when we can share our ideas with our peers. With this in mind, talk about the text you are considering and have another student read the same text. You will then gather in small groups on the days below and share with your groups your thoughts, concerns and questions. That same day, with your new found insight, write a one page response to the reading you have completed to date. Your reading response journals will be submitted at the end of that period and will be submitted for formal evaluation when your reading is complete.

1/3 of novel read by: \_\_\_\_\_ writing journal in class

2/3 of novel read by: \_\_\_\_\_ writing journal in class

whole novel read by: \_\_\_\_\_ writing journal in class

#### 2. Skeletal Outline

As part of the ISP, you will complete a detailed outline of your essay. This outline will contain your thesis, all your main arguments, and your supporting quotations. You must submit this part of the assignment on time, or you will receive a mark of zero. More details to follow.

**3. Written Essay:** 1000 words or 3-4 typed, double-spaced pages

During the writing process and throughout the semester, you will meet individually with your teacher to discuss your progress. You must come to each conference prepared, with quality process work completed as assigned. Students who are not prepared for their individual conferences will receive a grade of zero for those portions of the ISP process; however, each part of the ISP process must be completed in order for students to receive a final mark for the ISP.

You will work on a rough draft of the literary essay once the thesis and outline have been completed. The first rough draft will be self-edited. You will revise your draft and have it ready for peer-editing in class. You will then create your final, polished copy of the essay. **On the date that the literary essay is due, you will be required to submit your polished copies of the essay and all your process work (including your reading notes).**

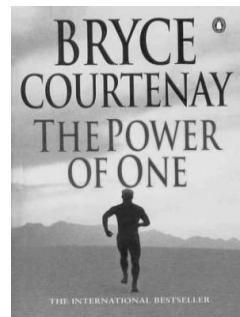
Possible areas of focus for the Literary Essay:

- the theme or the author's message
- the use of symbols and symbolism
- the protagonist's journey
- the effect of the point of view / narration
- the use of setting
- the significance of the title
- characterization in the novel
- examining how the protagonist changes as a result of his/her experiences

## Some Possible Titles

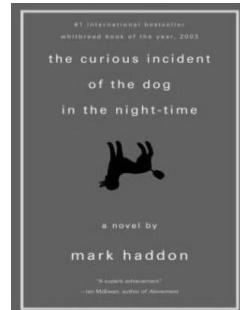
### *The Power of One* Bryce Courtenay

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay is a coming-of-age story about a white South African boy in the 1930s and 1940s. The narrator is raised in a confusing environment of violence, death, and racial and cultural hatred. Throughout the course of the story, he learns to rely on himself and believe that all people are equal.



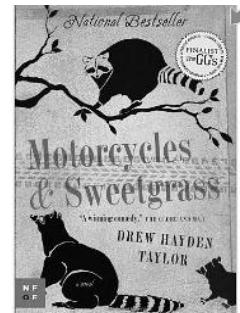
### *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* Mark Haddon

The story is written in the first-person perspective of Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15-year-old boy who describes himself as 'a mathematician with some behavioral difficulties' living in Swindon. Christopher investigates the murder of his neighbour's dog and the mysterious circumstances of his parent's separation.



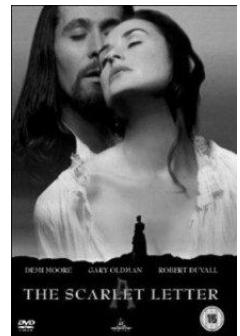
### *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* Drew Hayden Taylor

Otter Lake is a sleepy Anishnawbe community where little happens. Until the day a handsome stranger pulls up astride a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle -- and turns Otter Lake completely upside down. Maggie, the Reserve's chief, is swept off her feet, but Virgil, her teenage son, is less than enchanted. Suspicious of the stranger's intentions, he teams up with his uncle Wayne -- a master of aboriginal martial arts -- to drive the stranger from the Reserve. And it turns out that the raccoons are willing to lend a hand.



### *The Scarlet Letter* Nathaniel Hawthorne

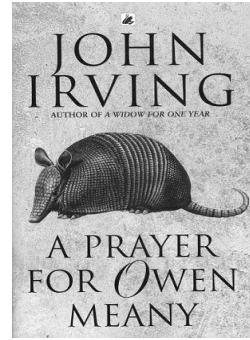
The Scarlet Letter follows the public shaming and punishment of a young woman named Hester Prynne in mid-17th century Boston (a.k.a. the Massachusetts Bay Colony). When Hester becomes pregnant, everyone believes her to be guilty of adultery: she has been separated from her husband for two full years, and the baby cannot be his. The magistrates (local law enforcers) and ministers order her to wear a scarlet letter "A" on the bodice of her dress, so that everyone can know about her adultery.



### *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

John Irving

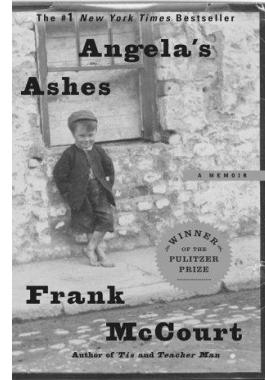
A Prayer for Owen Meany was the seventh published novel by American writer John Irving when it appeared in 1989. It tells the story of John Wheelwright and his best friend Owen Meany growing up together in a small New England town during the 1950-60s. Owen is a remarkable boy in many ways; he believes himself to be God's instrument and journeys on a truly extraordinary path.



### *Angela's Ashes*

Frank McCourt

Angela's Ashes is a 1996 memoir by the Irish-American author Frank McCourt. The memoir consists of various anecdotes and stories of Frank McCourt's impoverished childhood and early adulthood in Brooklyn, New York and Limerick, Ireland, as well as McCourt's struggles with poverty, his father's drinking issues, and his mother's attempts to keep the family alive. Angela's Ashes was published in 1996 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography.



### *The Lovely Bones*

Alice Sebold

The Lovely Bones is a 2002 novel by Alice Sebold. It is the story of a teenage girl who, after being raped and murdered, watches from her personal Heaven as her family and friends struggle to move on with their lives while she comes to terms with her own death. The novel received much critical praise and became an instant bestseller. A film adaptation of the novel, directed by Peter Jackson who personally purchased the rights, was released in American theatres on January 15, 2010, and in the UK on February 15, 2010.

