

IB English 11 *The Sand Child*

This unit we'll continue looking at Works in Translation for the IB Written Assessment. We will also spend time focusing on class discussion, where students lead the discussion.

Socratic Seminars:

A Socratic Seminar is a genuine discussion. As the opening quote suggests, a seminar is meant to be a different kind of class (or instructional strategy). The seminar is designed to enable students to explore a text, a problem, an experience; it is not a more conversational form of teacher-led instruction. Rather, it is the students' opportunity to ask and consider questions and explore each others' answers.

Over the course of the four weeks, you'll be asked to participate in a daily Socratic Seminar. You'll be put into a group at the beginning of the unit and you'll work with the same group throughout the unit.

We will have 5-6 seminars going on during each class. While students discuss the text they read for that class (including previously read text), you will be allowed to ask questions of each other to clarify, gather evidence, or seek opinions of the others discussing in their group. Each discussion will last a minimum of 25 minutes, so you must be prepared to discuss each day.

At the end of each discussion, you'll assess each group member and assign each member a score for the day. These will be used to effectively assess your discussions. With 5-6 presentations, I cannot hear each person at all times. Each day of discussion will be averaged to provide evidence at the end of each unit. The lowest score will be dropped from your average.