

(The following is a course description for a unit in Year 9 English designed by teacher, Alexandra Grimwade at Melbourne Boys' High School. As part of the course the boys studying 'The Getting of Wisdom' visited PLC to discuss the novel with some girls there.)

'Our Language, our World.' Introduction to the Course .

A Study of Australian Novels set in Melbourne 1910 -2017

Welcome to a new unit of work that I am developing this year. In the past, every student in Year 9 across all classes has read one assigned novel. In my time at the school, I have taught; Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, Sonya Hartnett's Thursday's Child, and Craig Silvey's Jasper Jones. These are all excellent novels dealing with differing contexts and important themes, however this year all Yr. 9 teachers will be teaching this section of the course independently.

I have decided to combine wider reading with the more formal study of texts and have selected eight texts all written by a range of Australian authors. Interestingly all texts are set in Melbourne. The texts are reflective of different time periods and can be classified as being from different genres.

There are 8 texts to select from, and you will be working on reading, analysis and writing activities within each group.

I have assigned a Director to each group as follows:

1. **Div Bhanot:** Alice Pung Unpolished Gem (3) Memoir, migration
 - Rushil Bhadra (away)
 - Saketh Dadigela
 - Div Bhandot

2. **Martin Le:** Eliot Perlman: Three Dollars (3) Novel, Social realism, jobs, poverty, divorce, masculinity in Australian society
 - Martin Le
 - Thivina Edirisinghe
 - Isaac Chan

6. **Victor Ly:** Henry Handel Richardson (4) The Getting of Wisdom 1910 Novel: Women's education and role in society
 - Abel Eduard
 - Patrick Chen
 - Justin Leung

4. **Keane Ng:** Sofie Laguna: The Eye of the Sheep (4) Novel: Disability, parenting. Alcoholism, domestic violence, de-industrialisation
 - Ayden Uong
 - Hao Ran He
 - Stephen Siew

5. **Ian Nguyen** George: Johnstone My Brother Jack (4) Australian Classic 1964
WW1- WW11, childhood, ambition, family relationship, life as a writer,
Australian identity

- Hieu Chau
- Dhruv Redhu
- Aravind Saravanan

6. **Arin Patel** Peter Temple White Dog (4) Crime Fiction / Thriller. Melbourne
criminal underworld, personal ethics, justice, exploitation

- Ronath Wijeeoon
- Samuel Wong
- Peter Chan

7. **William Pham:** Paul Carter Eleven Seasons (3) AFL football, Australian
society, masculinity

- William Pham
- Ben Truong
- Harry Ha

8. **Nathan Yow:** Emily Bitto The Strays (3) Historical Novel about
childhood, friendship in the Melbourne Art World of 1940s and 50s.

- Brian Le,
- Asif Ahmed
- Nathan Yow

HOLIDAY TASKS:

- To **read** the novel
- Identify and research the **genre**
- To research the **biography of the author**
- To research the **context and period** in which the novel is set . In particular what particular places, and aspect of life in Melbourne , are the focus of your text ?
- Make notes from your sources, and include a bibliography.
- Use reviews of the novel, websites about the authors and critical commentaries
- Don't neglect the work in your grammar books also, completing up to adjectives and adverbs.

Good luck, Enjoy reading and Happy Easter! Mrs Grimwade 27th March 2018