

Dear Members of the Rising Senior Class,

This is to apprise you of your summer reading assignment for IB English IV. You are required to read Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* prior to the first day of school in the fall. This very popular book is widely available at bookstores, or can be ordered on-line at Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com.

You should expect an exam over the plot of the book on the first day of class to ensure that you have read it. Please do **not** rely on the available on-line chapter summaries. These can be helpful to understand difficult moments, but are no substitute for reading the book yourself. As we shall see during the course of our discussion, the mostly widely-used of these contains several significant plot errors which suggest that its author was not a very adept reader.

Later in the first week there will be a "key quote" exam which will expect you to recognize and contextualize several important passages. You will not be able to accomplish this without having read the book carefully. It would be helpful for you to keep a reading journal in which you identify areas of interest for discussion and any questions you might have.

There is a very helpful study guide at: <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/anglophone/roy.html>.

This guide translates the words in Malayalam, a language spoken in south India, and also unpacks some difficult cultural traditions involving Indian theatre, dance and sacred texts. You should use this to annotate your book so that when you review later you will have that information at your disposal. IB assessment for this text does not come until May, with your Paper Two exam, so it will be helpful to you to be as careful and thorough as you can be now.