



“...Mo Yan deserves a place in world literature. His imagery is astounding, sensual and visceral. His story is electrifying and epic. I was amazed from the first page. It’s unlike anything I’ve read coming out of China in past or recent times.”
-Amy Tan

“Mo Yan... brilliantly and fondly re-creates life with visceral writing that reeks of gunpowder, blood and death.” -The New York Times Book Review

Red Sorghum

Mo Yan

ISBN 978-0-14-016854-9

2013-2014 I.B. Seniors: You are required to read Mo Yan’s landmark novel spanning three generations grounded in the sorghum fields in the Shandong Province of Northern China. Much of the novel is set during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945). As you read, you need to make scholarly annotations about the writer’s craft. The annotations will be credited, and a reading check test on the novel will be administered during the first week of school.

Mo Yan is the winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Literature.

A resourceful link with background information, a character list, and link to chronology:
<http://web.cocc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum210/RedSorghum/redsorghum.htm>



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Annotating your text

Senior I.B. students are required to color code their annotations using a minimum of four colors. You may devise your own system, but here is Moore's system:

Yellow-significant **plot** complications
Green-**character** traits and character development
Blue-significant **diction** and unfamiliar vocabulary
Pink-**literary features** (see below)
Orange-**cultural** details
Purple-varies depending on the novel

Literary features about which senior I.B. students should be cognizant while reading:

- **Figurative language** (simile, metaphor, pun, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, allusion)
- **Structural elements** (narrative type—frame, in media res, open-ended, monomyth, etc.—chronological, non-linear, deus ex machine, striking or ironic use of juxtaposition, and motif)
- **Point-of-view** (particularly point-of-view shifts)
- **Syntax** (significant or striking examples)
- **Imagery** (visual, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, and kinesthetic)
- **Symbol** (including archetypes)
- **Irony** (trumps everything)
- **Theme**



Don't forget the *note* part of the word *annotation*; highlighting alone will only receive partial credit.