Creating Lifelong Learners: IB Primary Years Programme and Great Books

Our Common Goal
The International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Great Books Foundation share the common goal of encouraging students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who have global perspectives and deep understanding of people of different cultures.

Focus

IB Primary Years Programme
The IB Primary Years Programme focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. The programme:
• Encourages international mindedness
• Encourages a positive attitude to learning by engaging students in inquiries and developing their awareness of the process of learning so that they become lifelong learners
• Reflects real life by encouraging learning beyond traditional subjects with meaningful, in-depth inquiries into real issues
• Emphasizes, through the learner profile, the development of the whole student—physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically.

Great Books
Great Books offers products and professional development to facilitate inquiry–based learning in each and every classroom. We provide:
• Experiences that address students’ intellectual and social and emotional needs
• Literature by some of the world’s greatest classic and contemporary authors as well as high-quality nonfiction materials
• Opportunities for students to gain insights and perspectives by wrestling with questions and issues of enduring human concern
• A framework of inquiry-based learning that hones student skills in close reading, critical thinking, and civil discourse across content areas
• Support for teachers to become experienced facilitators of inquiry-based learning

For more information about Great Books products and professional learning, contact us at 800.222.5870 or visit greatbooks.org.
Approach

IB Primary Years Programme

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. An IB education empowers young people for a lifetime of learning, independently and in collaboration with others. It prepares a community of learners to engage with global challenges through inquiry, action, and reflection.

- **Sustained inquiry** forms the centerpiece of the written, taught, and assessed curriculum in IB programmes. The programmes feature structured inquiry both into established bodies of knowledge and into complex problems. In this approach prior knowledge and experience establish the basis for new learning, and students’ own curiosity provides the most effective provocation for learning that is engaging, relevant, challenging, and significant.

- **Principled action**, as both a strategy and an outcome, represents the IB’s commitment to teaching and learning through practical, real-world experience. The IB World Schools value action that encompasses a concern for integrity and honesty, as well as a strong sense of fairness that respects the dignity of individuals and groups.

- **Critical reflection** is the process by which curiosity and experience can lead to deeper understanding. Reflective thinkers must become critically aware of their evidence, methods, and conclusions. Reflection also involves being conscious of potential bias and inaccuracy on one’s own work and in the work of others.

Great Books

Our inquiry-based approach to learning is built around a core approach of students working collaboratively to unearth answers to authentic questions of meaning that lie embedded in high-quality fiction and nonfiction materials. By discussing and writing about these selections, they gain knowledge about other people’s ideas as well as about the world around them. Through this process, they learn to:

- Look first to their own experience and thinking for insights into the meaning of a text
- Reflect carefully on the ideas presented in a text
- Communicate orally—stating their ideas clearly and fully
- Work confidently in a group—listening carefully and respectfully to their peers while developing their abilities to weigh and analyze different perspectives
- Create, articulate, and support their ideas with textual evidence

Students learn the art of collaboration, building new intellectual alliances across different backgrounds and perspectives while engaging in civil discourse. By thinking in depth about a text, students also learn to sustain focus and transfer the strategies and insights gained so they can apply them to all content areas.
IB Primary Years Programme

The six transdisciplinary themes of the IB PYP offer a balance between learning about or through the subject areas and learning beyond them. They allow students to “step up” beyond the confines of learning within subject areas. They are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Great Books

With Junior Great Books, great emphasis is placed on understanding the use of questioning strategies, for both teacher and student, across the curriculum. In addition, there are numerous opportunities for both teacher and student to become more proficient at developing authentic questions that encourage students to delve deeply into both the meaning and resonance of a given topic.

- Literature selections in Junior Great Books are thematic and multicultural in order to provide reading and discussion experiences about characters in other cultures.
- Students use a text as a model and springboard to their own inquiry.
- They gain skills in participatory citizenship by engaging in discussions with their peers.
- They develop as independent thinkers and writers, moving their critical thinking across disciplines into further research, creative or evaluative writing, and other applications both personal and global in scope.

Outstanding Fiction and Nonfiction Offerings from Great Books

Junior Great Books Series
K–5 fiction program:

- Student Books
- Teacher’s Editions with MP3s or audio CDs
- Reader’s Journals
- Print and digital editions available!

Junior Great Books Nonfiction Inquiry grades 3–5:

- Extended inquiry-based learning with informational texts
- Grade-appropriate alignment with national benchmarks

Also Available:

- Junior Great Books Nonfiction Libraries
- Guided Reading Collections
- Junior Great Books ThinkIt®