

ALL STUDENTS ENROLLING IN AP ENGLISH 4 FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR MUST READ *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT* AND ONE SELECTION FROM THE CHOICE LIST AS *SUMMER READING*. NO PART OF THIS ASSIGNMENT IS OPTIONAL.

NOTE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS: Literature of the Advanced Placement 4 level requires considerable maturity. The purpose of literature is not just to please, but to make the reader think. The purpose of literature is not to affirm the reader's beliefs, but rather to challenge them, so that they may be affirmed or rejected. The purpose of literature is not to serve as a vehicle or tool by which objectives, skills, or even predetermined values are taught, but to offer an art form that should be appreciated as an expression of the human condition. Literature demands that we cherish our right to be pleased, enriched, and strengthened, as well as our right to be challenged, offended, and even threatened. Literature demands confrontation between what we believe and what we are asked to consider. From that confrontation comes both struggle and growth, wherein lie the dignity and the nobility of man. Literature as art is an end unto itself whereby appreciation, not approval, is the goal. A certain level of maturity is necessary to understand that light and dark, pleasure and pain, joy and depression are inextricably bound as part of the human condition, each defining and making possible the alternate. It is our hope that students will come to appreciate the textual richness and depth of thought that this literature offers.

I. REQUIRED NOVEL OF ALL STUDENTS: Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. You *must* read the Constance Garnett translation. Also be sure to **highlight and annotate** the novel for key ideas. Your knowledge of this novel will be assessed the 2nd week of school.

- **LITERARY CRITICISM (due second week of school):**
 - Locate and copy a selection of literary criticism for *Crime and Punishment*.
 - Highlight and annotate the criticism for key ideas.
 - Write a précis of the article.
 - Write a correct bibliographic entry following current MLA format.

II. REQUIRED NOVEL OF CHOICE: Make a selection from the list of authors and their works. Read carefully, highlight/annotate, and be prepared to have your knowledge of the work assessed on the second day of school. Before making your final selection, be sure to read a description of the book (an online site such as barnesandnoble.com is useful) to determine if the subject matter is appropriate for you.

Sula and *The Bluest Eye*—Toni Morrison (read both)
The Poisonwood Bible—Barbara Kingsolver
Going After Cacciato – Tim O'Brien
A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving

The Bonesetter's Daughter —Amy Tan
Native Speaker – Chang-Rae Lee
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle – David Wroblewski

- **LITERARY CRITICISM (due second day of school):**
 - Locate and copy a selection of literary criticism for your selected novel.
 - Highlight and annotate the criticism for key ideas.
- NOTE: You are *not* writing a précis for this literary criticism.**

While you will not be held accountable for all of the books on the above list, you may wish to read more of them than required, as they all frequently appear as choices on the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Exam.

- **By the second week of school**, you will need to bring a copy of *The Oresteia*, translated by Robert Fagles.
- To prepare for the many mythological and Biblical allusions in the literature studied, we suggest acquiring a book on mythology such as Edith Hamilton's or Bulfinch's *Mythology*, as well as, becoming familiar with the Book of Genesis from the Bible and/or acquiring a Biblical reference book.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS: ANY STUDENT ENROLLING IN AP ENGLISH 4 AND LATER SWITCHING TO HONORS ENGLISH 4 AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WILL TAKE HIS/HER GRADES EARNED TO DATE WITH HIM/HER TO THE OTHER CLASS. WHEN MOVING OUT OF AP ENGLISH 4, NOTE THAT THE PRE-ASSIGNED 2 NOVELS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE GRADES THAT WILL GO TO THE HONORS ENGLISH 4 TEACHER.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.