To: juniors who will be taking AP English IV

Re: AP English IV

The AP English IV team would like to congratulate you on the completion of your junior year and to commend your decision to continue in the Advanced Placement program. We know you will find your final year of English exciting, rewarding, and challenging. The course covers both world and British literature, from the ancient Greeks to the most contemporary writers. We strongly support the College Board’s philosophy that reading in an AP course should be both wide and deep.

For one of the essays for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Exam you will take next May, you will be asked to discuss a work of literary merit. Although the College Board does not require specific works, the more a student has read will correlate with the success that he or she will have on the AP Literature and Composition exam.

While there will NOT be a specific summer reading for AP IV, throughout the summer we hope that you will choose to read challenging selections in order to strengthen your language skills before the AP course and the AP exam. We will begin the year with Shakespeare’s Hamlet. (There is NOT a specified version that you need to purchase.) As a suggestion, you may want to start reading or pre-read Shakespeare’s Hamlet. Also, you may want to read some novels that can be found on the following websites:

The Pulitzer Prize: [http://www.pulitzer.org/](http://www.pulitzer.org/)
The Booker Prize: [http://www.themanbookerprize.com/](http://www.themanbookerprize.com/)

Please do not hesitate to contact me by either email or telephone if you have any questions regarding AP English IV.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Celine Gomez
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**Fall Reading List:**

*** Please be aware that modifications may still be made to this list.

- Book Clubs (choice contemporary works) – 1st six weeks: still to be determined
- Resume and college essays (guidelines and overview)
- Renaissance Period: Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, *Sonnets*
- Theatre of the Absurd: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*
- Aeschylus’ *The Oresteia* *translated by Robert Fagles*
- Medieval Period and Epic conventions: Dante’s *Inferno* *translated by John Ciardi*