

# Skyline High School *An International Baccalaureate School*

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May 22, 2015

Dear Future A.P. English Student,

Greetings! I hope you are looking forward to having a fun, relaxing, and rewarding summer. I'm writing to let you know about the summer reading for AP English. The first novel we will study is Dostoyesvsky's psychological thriller, *Crime and Punishment*. It is important you all have the Penguin edition (ISBN# 9780140449136), available at most bookstores but if you want to support local businesses, you can bring this letter to The King's English and they will give you a 10% discount. I always require students to annotate their books or keep a reading log as they read, so I have included with this letter an article you need to read which explains the importance or annotation and close textual analysis. Also included is an assignment sheet to give you an idea of what to look for as you read.

As you read, make marginal notes and highlight passages you particularly like or consider significant to the theme or to the protagonist's development. We will begin discussing the novel the first day of class so it is vital that you have completed your reading. Your first writing assignment on the novel will be due the second week of school. Completion of the summer reading and the writing assignment will indicate your willingness to take on other challenging assignments throughout the year. Our "AP school year" is only eight months, as the exam is in early May, so we need a head start to learn a great deal in a relatively short time.

I am suggesting you review *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN- 9780060009427) if you read it last year. If you did not, I highly recommend you read this before you read *Crime and Punishment* so you can apply what you learn about analyzing literature to your close reading.

I look forward to getting to know you and to working with you during the upcoming school year, and will do everything I can to make your experience in AP English both intellectually stimulating and fun. From your teachers I have heard much praise about your talent and initiative. One more suggestion: read *Crime and Punishment* in late July and August, so the details will be fresh in your mind. Better yet, read it now, and then re-read before school starts! (A teacher can dream can't she?)

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the reading. Don't put it off until the last week or two of the summer or you will begin the year feeling "stressed out." Plenty of time for that later. If you have any questions during the summer you may email me at [jthackeray@graniteschools.org](mailto:jthackeray@graniteschools.org).

Sincerely,

Ms. Jill Thackeray  
AP English teacher  
Skyline High School



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