

Skyline High School An International Baccalaureate School

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May 9, 2016

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 Dostoyevsky'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. 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. There will be a reading check at the end of the first week and you will also be required to turn in your annotated books or reading log. Completion of the summer reading 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 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 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. 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.

Sincerely,



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Ms. Jill Thackeray
AP English teacher
Skyline High School