May, 2018

Dear A.P. English Literature and Composition student:

I am excited about the literary journey we will embark in the fall. As a student in A.P. Lit., you will travel through classic and contemporary works of literature from a variety of genres.

Just as any trip requires some advance preparation, so, too, does this one. As many of you probably already know, some summer reading is usually required of AP Literature students. Since the AP Lit curriculum is so tight, reading a book or two during the summer frees us up a little during the school year and allows us to cover more material.

This year, I am assigning you just one book to read before school begins:

**Crime and Punishment** by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Please read the entire novel. I would also strongly advise that you jot down some notes as you go, in particular to keep clear the many characters you will meet along the way. As the title indicates, two of the major themes of the novel relate to crime (motivation, cause/effect) and, of course, punishment (Is it appropriate? Does it bring about redemption, atonement?). Keep this in mind as you read, but also be open to the complexity of the characters and the narrative.

You should pick up a copy of **Crime and Punishment** from me in my classroom (Room 151) any time before May 31st.

You can also find copies at any bookstore or perhaps even your own bookshelves at home. Our school copy is the version translated by Constance Garnett; since translations sometimes vary significantly, I’d urge you to find this version. However, be aware that any edition you buy will likely have different page numbers from the text supplied by the school.

Please come to our first class in the fall, on August 28, 2018, ready to discuss the novel. We will be having two tests on **Crime and Punishment** some time during the first week of school (one objective test and one essay test). Be ready!

This classic novel is the perfect text to launch us on our literary journey together; I’m so excited to be setting sail with you on this A.P. adventure! Have a great summer, gather your energies, and prepare to cast off when we meet in August!

Sincerely,

Maura Brew
A.P. Eng. Lit. Teacher