

## Advanced Placement Literature 2008 Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 12<sup>th</sup> graders:

May 2008

Advanced Placement English has too many terrific books to read in a year, so the summer assignment will give you just a taste of some classics we will not read as an entire class. You will, however, have to write on your summer reading in the first three weeks of school, and we will be discussing the novels in some detail because these novels set up the themes for the entire first semester. Because you are seniors, I expect that you have phenomenal close-reading skills and that you will take careful notes without being prompted. In addition to your own notes, however, please fill out as much as you can of the attached charts for each of the novels. Word to the wise—do the charts as you read; **it is much easier to jot the notes down on the charts as you read rather than trying to remember just before school starts. You need to hand in these charts on the first day of school. These charts will be useful in our discussion as well as crucial for your review as you prepare for the AP exam in May.**

**You need to read two novels and one novella this summer for this class.**

1. *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (this one has a study guide because it can be a wee bit confusing)
2. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus (short (!!)) novella) (Read the attached information to help you understand a little bit about existentialism BEFORE you begin the book.)
3. **PLEASE READ THIS LAST!** Read up to the end of Part III in *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (The study guide is meant to help you keep the names and places straight). We will be finishing this novel together and your first paper will be on this, thus starting this in August and taking careful notes will really help you.

If you have already read these books, please tell me, and we can discuss what to read instead. If you lose the Major Works Chart, please call me (721-4521) or look on the website because that is not a legitimate excuse. Please understand: Advanced Placement Literature is a reading class. If you do not conscientiously complete this summer assignment, I may suggest that you switch to AP Language because it demands less complex literature reading.

P. S. If you are bored, and you have not read either of these books, and you want to make your teacher smile, you may want to read one of these classic, provocative novels by 19<sup>th</sup> century sisters. I will discuss them with anyone who braves them.

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte

Charlotte Bronte tells the suspense-filled story of a poor governess in a house of deep, dark secrets. As Jane comes to understand herself, she also learns about the secret lives of those around her.

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

One of the most passionate stories of the power of possessive and demanding love, the story is set in a landscape that is as wild and powerful as the hero and heroine.