AP ENGLISH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2019

“In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot or will not read. It is not true that we can have only one life to live. If we can read, we can live as many lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish.” --S. I. Hayakawa

“The world is made up of stories, not of atoms.” --Muriel Rukeyser

Welcome to Advanced Placement English 12!

With an open mind and willingness to work, you should be able to score high on the AP exam next May and earn credit at a participating college. One goal—among many—is to provide you with the instruction and guidance that will prepare you for this exam.

To ensure a strong beginning, please read the works listed below over the summer. You are encouraged to take notes on each book. Your notes can include impressions, reactions, quotations, questions, connections to other works—anything that helps you to understand and interpret literature. These notes will not be collected, but they will be helpful in completing the writing assignment (details below), which will be collected.

Graded Writing Assignment:

Compose a short paper (2 pages—typed double-spaced—12 Times New Roman font) in which you relate any one of the novels you have read to the following quotation by Franz Kafka:

“A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us.”

In other words, your essay should discuss what that work has taught you about yourself. You have latitude regarding how to approach and structure the paper, but it must be organized and focused. Do not use any outside sources for the paper—it is important to see how you think and write. The essay will be collected the first class meeting in September and it will count as a formative assessment grade for the first marking period. You will be docked one letter grade if the essay is not turned in at the first class—no exceptions (including technology issues).

The following are the required summer readings:

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (one of the first and arguably the greatest of all psychological novels—don’t be intimidated by the length)

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (a story of passionate, complex, and ultimately tragic love—the opening chapters can be confusing, but once you get thirty or forty pages in it’s a great read)

After reading these works, you will undoubtedly come back to school with plenty to question and discuss. Be prepared for some sort of “evaluation” for each of the novels—check tests, essays, or a combination of both—within the first two weeks of class.

If you have any questions or concerns over the summer, feel free to contact the English Department Supervisor, Melissa Barnett.