**AP English Literature & Composition**

**Summer Reading Assignment 2017**

To prepare for the work we will do together in 2016-17, please read one of the following novels this summer:

*Wuthering Heights* (1847) by Emily Brontë

*Crime and Punishment* (1866) by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

*Catch-22* (1961) by Joseph Heller

*The Color Purple* (1982) by Alice Walker

While reading, please take careful notes on the development of characters, themes, and how those two connect to each other. (*For example, how does the development of the protagonist highlight a particular theme in the novel?)* In September, you will write an in-class essay on your novel based on the Open Question of the AP Literature exam, Question 3, which focuses largely on character and theme. You will not use notes while writing the actual essay, but you will want to take them while reading in order to track your thinking and organize your ideas. To that end, take notes in a manner that works for you. To give you an idea of the type of essay prompt you will see in the fall, here are examples of Open Questions in recent years:

* 2016—Choose a novel or play in which a character deceives others. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character’s deception and discuss how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.
* 2014—Choose a character from a novel, play, or epic who has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character’s values. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze how that sacrifice illuminates that character’s values and provides a deeper understanding of the work as a whole.
* 2012—Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.

Your essay prompt in the fall will include *similar* features to the examples above.

If you have any questions while reading, please don’t hesitate to email one of us. We will reply as soon as possible. We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to working with you next year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sturgeon Mr. Selley Mr. Powell

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