

Pinelands Regional High School
Mr. A. Lupo
AP English Literature and Composition
Summer 2011

Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

Directions:

Read each of the three books listed in the below, then write the corresponding essay for the book. Each essay must be six paragraphs long, typed and double spaced using Times New Roman 12pt font, no exceptions. Failure to hand in the assignment will reflect negatively upon your grade in my course. This assignment is due on the first day of classes, September 6, 2011. If you have any questions about the readings or the essays please contact me at ALupo@PRSDNJ.org.

Reading Assignment:

1. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus
2. *Native Son* by Richard Wright
3. *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Essay 1 – *The Stranger*

In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for justice.”

Choose a character from Albert Camus’ *The Stranger* who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole.

Essay 2 – *Native Son*

In *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following: “At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the illuminating incident to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.”

Using Richard Wright’s novel *Native Son*, write a well organized essay in which you describe an “illuminating” episode or moment and explain how it functions as a “casement,” a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

Essay 3 – *Crime and Punishment*

“When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.”

~ Jonathon Swift

In some works of literature, the main character often finds himself or herself in conflict with the social or moral values. Using Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*, choose a character that is at odds with the people around him or her, or with society at large. Write an essay in which you explain the merits of the character and how these conflicts are essential to the overall meaning of the work.