

## AP English Summer Reading List 2010

To enrich your AP experience, we ask that, before you return to school, you closely and entirely read one novel from the following list. Our choices reflect our intention that you extend your literary diet from American literature to world literature during your senior year. Please purchase the edition noted below.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful summer.

Warren Wolfe	Paul Swanson	Eric Wentz
English Department Chair	Teacher	Teacher

**Please choose one novel from the following:**

(All descriptions are from Amazon.com)

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, translation by Constance Garnett, Russian. ISBN #0-553-21175-7

“*Crime and Punishment* is quite possibly the most widely read 19th century Russian novel in the English-speaking world ... it begins with the decision of an impoverished student, Raskolnikov, to rob and kill a pawnbroker, having justified his decision with the argument that her death will do the world more good than harm, both because she cheats her clients and because the money from the robbery will give him the start he needs to become a great man and ultimately benefit humanity. The action of the novel is confined to the day of the murder and a few days following it, during which time, in addition to dealing with a murder investigation led by a clever and intriguing detective who suspects him.”

*Far from the Madding Crowd*, Thomas Hardy, British. ISBN #978-0141439655

In *Far from the Madding Crowd*, Thomas Hardy introduces us to the precarious "love square". At the core of all the turmoil is beautiful farm girl, Bathsheba Everdene - spirited, vain, intelligent and adept at toying with the hearts of men. Inevitably beguiled by her charms a humble and kind farmer, Gabriel Oak, fervently attempts to win Bathsheba's affections. Enter the competition: (suitor#2) Farmer Boldwood - a wealthy and temperate middle-aged man respected in the community, eventually plunges into maniacal obsession at the mere possibility of making the beloved Miss Everdene his wife; and (suitor#3) Sergeant Francis Troy - a dashing young philandering soldier, with his share of inner demons, ruthlessness and vanity, vies for Bathsheba's hand in marriage.”

(over)

**Potential essay questions:**

1. “In some literary works, the experiences of an important character change him or her; in others, the experiences of an important character leave him almost unchanged.” In an essay, apply this statement to the novel. Consider why the character has or has not been made to change. Do not merely describe the character or summarize the plot.
2. “An individual’s struggle toward understanding and awareness is a traditional subject for the novelist.” In an essay, apply this statement to the novel. Organize your essay so that it does not mirror the chronology of the novel.
3. In many works of literature, a character has a misconception of him- or herself. Destroying or perpetuating this illusion contributes a central theme of the work. Choose a major character to whom this statement applies and write an essay in which you consider the following: (1) What is the character’s illusion and how does it differ from the reality as presented in the work? (2) How does the destruction or perpetuation of the illusion become significant?
4. Often novelists depict parent-child relationships where the children seem to survive *in spite* of their parents’ influences. Discuss how this statement does/does not pertain to the novel. Consider the parents’ major strengths or weaknesses and the impacts of these qualities on their child/children.

**When you return in the fall, be prepared to write about these texts.**

Have a great summer!

Mr. Wolfe

Mr. Swanson

Dr. Wentz