



**Trinity High School English Department
Summer 2009 Reading Requirement
IB Senior Year English**

Reading ability is a widely cited factor in determining academic success in several disciplines. To foster language skills, critical reflection, and a love of literature, the English Department requires IB English seniors to read the following texts this summer:

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (Anchor Books; 978-0385474542)
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky (Penguin; 978-0451530066)
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (Norton; 978-0393976045)

Please purchase the editions indicated. Students are asked to read actively by highlighting and annotating their texts. In addition, students must complete a journal entry of at least 6-8 pages which examines the following question:

“By their deeds shall ye know them.” We often judge people by what they do; therefore, we consider people who commit thoughtless, cruel or reprehensible acts as weak, base, or corrupt. In literature, however, authors often introduce us to characters whom we learn to like or even respect, despite their deeds. Discuss a character in each of the novels for whom you developed admiration or compassion. Explain why you felt his or her behavior to be condemnable or contemptible, and how the author’s techniques throughout key passages influenced your attitude.

- Your entry should be at least 6-8 pages written, 2-3 pages devoted to each novel.
- Do not merely summarize the plot. Analyze key passages throughout each novel.
- Make sure to provide an introduction, thesis statement, and conclusion in your answer. Your body paragraphs should relate directly to your thesis statement.
- Avoid first and second person in your answer (I, me, you, yours, we, etc).
- Use a variety of word choice and sentences.
- Make sure you provide direct quotes and page numbers from each novel. Your answer should contain at least 4 quotes from each novel. When you cite your quote, use proper MLA format. For example, a quote from *Things Fall Apart* should be followed by the name of the author and the page number (Achebe 30).
- Be ready to verify that the work is your own original effort.

Upon returning to school in August, please be prepared to submit your journal to your English teacher for assessment along with evidence of conscientious annotations in your paperbacks. Annotations may include questions, comments, insights, comparisons to others works you have read, and definitions of unfamiliar words. Highlight significant passages of character description, conflict, imagery, symbolism, and dialogue. Consider as well how the structure of each work contributes to its meaning. Please direct any questions to Ms. Rose Crnkovich, English Department Chair, ph: (708) 453-8392; e-mail: ib@trinityhs.org.

Wishing you a very happy and productive summer!