



## Trinity High School English Department Summer 2008 Reading Requirement

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 students to read the following texts this summer. Students are expected to read actively and to keep an insightful reader's response journal (large spiral notebook) with several pages of analysis. Details must include comments on the **characters, settings, major events, conflicts, images, and themes** in each work. In addition, analyzing a significant passage or quotation and relating it to the story as a whole is effective. Lists of ideas and plot summaries are not acceptable nor are comments taken from sources such as *Cliffs Notes* or *Pink Monkey* and will earn no credit. Please purchase the editions indicated. English teachers will assess your completion of this requirement early in the course. Sample journal entries on the back provide models of the type of writing expected. Please direct any questions to Ms. Rose Crnkovich, English Department Chair, (708) 453-8392; [ib@trinityhs.org](mailto:ib@trinityhs.org).

### FRESHMEN

#### Pre-IB English I

*House on Mango Street* (Cisneros, Vintage)  
*We Have Always Lived in the Castle*  
(Jackson, Penguin)

#### College Prep English I

*House on Mango Street* (Cisneros, Vintage)  
*We Have Always Lived in the Castle*  
(Jackson, Penguin)

### SOPHOMORES

#### Pre-IB English II

*Moby Dick* (Melville, Norton Critical)  
*My Antonia* (Cather, Houghton-Mifflin)  
*The Awakening* (Chopin, Norton Critical)

#### College Prep English II

*My Antonia* (Cather, Houghton-Mifflin)  
*The Catcher in the Rye* (Salinger, Back Bay Books)

### JUNIORS

#### IB English III

*The Grapes of Wrath* (Steinbeck, Penguin)  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Marquez, Ballantine)  
*Long Day's Journey into Night*  
(O'Neill, Yale University Press)

#### College Prep English III

*A Room with a View* (Forster, Vintage)  
*The Collector* (Fowles, Back Bay Books)

### SENIORS

#### IB English IV

*Pride and Prejudice* (Austen, Norton Critical)  
*Crime and Punishment* (Dostoevsky, Penguin)  
*Things Fall Apart* (Achebe, Anchor Books)

#### College Prep English IV

*Things Fall Apart* (Achebe, Anchor Books)  
*The Namesake* (Lahiri, Harper Perennial)

*Wishing you a safe and happy summer vacation!*

## Journal Entry Samples

### *My Antonia*

Book 3: Lena Lingard  
Chapters 1-4

7/1/08

#### The Old Jim Never Left

Now that Jim is off studying at the university, he has changed even more. He has new sorts of friends, like Gaston Cleric, who are much more experienced than he is. I believe there will always be a bit of the old Jim in him. Even he himself recognizes this when he comments, "While I was in the very act of yearning toward the new forms that Cleric brought up before me, my mind plunged away from me, and I suddenly found myself thinking of the places and people of my own infinitesimal past. They stood out strengthened and simplified now, like the image of the plough against the sun" (168). The symbol of the plough here represents the strength of the people who settled Nebraska, their convictions and character. Jim himself is a strong, sensitive character with a sense of purpose. He reflects on his experiences often in a deep and philosophical way.

Although Lena's visit to Jim really wasn't a major incident, I believe that it brought him a little glimpse of what he'd been missing. Lena always had been a part of Jim and Antonia's life ever since they moved to Black Hawk. He notes, "Lena had brought them all back to me. It came over me, as it had never done before, the relation between girls like those and the poetry of Virgil. If there were no girls like them in the world, there would be no poetry. This revelation seemed to me inestimably precious" (173).

For awhile, it almost seemed like Jim and Lena would end up getting married. However, that wouldn't really be probable. Yes, Jim enjoys Lena and even is a bit attracted to her, but what she really is for him is a connection to Antonia. Hopefully, wherever his future leads will bring Jim back to his beloved Antonia.

### *Crime and Punishment*

Part I: Chapters 3-4

7/25/08

#### The Alienation of Raskolnikov

It seems as though Raskolnikov feels trapped in his room, which I perceive as his entire life. So far in the novel, Dostoevsky has mentioned twice how small Raskolnikov's room is, "like a cupboard more than a room" (19). The feeling of entrapment causes him to shun people, even at times his mother and sister. Once he finds out that his mother and Dunya are going to move near him, he seems to resent the idea. The fact that his family loves him so much helps to give a fuller view of Raskolnikov's complex character.

I do not like Svidrigaylov's wife. Like many people, she makes assumptions before having the facts. Instead of making sure she knew what had occurred, she tried ruining someone's reputation. My view of her changed once she prayed, believed Dunya, and asked for forgiveness. To add to that, Marfa told people that Dunya was innocent; however, I agree with Pulcheria when she said that Marfa went too far to make copies of Dunya's letter and hand them out to people. By distributing copies of the letter, wouldn't it show that it was Svidrigaylov who was the wrong one in the situation which would eventually cause people to turn against him?

Raskolnikov probably wanted to help the girl on the street because he saw the man stalking her. He most likely thought of the girl as if it were Dunya in that situation. Since he tends to avoid people, it's odd that he would be interested in helping the young girl and going to the police. This incident brings out a compassionate side to him which was surprising.

The most important literary elements of these chapters are the descriptions of the setting and the detailed characterization of the main character, Raskolnikov, along with many others. It seems as though the setting is having a great influence on him and may even affect his decisions.