

2008 Summer Reading

AP English

In lieu of journals, you will read carefully and take notes. Then, during the first week of September you will write two in-class essays taken from the questions below, one on Huxley's work and the other on Dostoevsky's work.

Please read Huxley's Brave New World, marking your text for important words, phrases and allusions. Outline or brainstorm about each question in order to respond to the writing prompt in class.

BNW

1. Many characters' names in BNW reveal unique aspects of their personalities. Choose 3 characters and discuss how each name highlights a significant philosophical element in his or her personality.
2. Contrast Helmholtz's understanding of artistic creation (69-71) with that of Mitsima's (134-135).
3. If the protagonist is defined as "the character who undergoes the most dynamic transformation," who qualifies and why?
4. Analyze John Savage's diction and tone in Chapter 17 that lead up to his assertion: "What you need...is something *with* tears for a change. Nothing costs enough here" (239).

As you read through Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, mark and highlight important passages. Outline or think through the following questions to prepare for one of these in-class essay prompts in September.

1. Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. In contrast to direct characterization (the audience *tells* us the personality of the character), Dostoevsky uses indirect characterization to *show* things that reveal the personality of a character. STEAL is an acronym for: **S = Speech; T = Thoughts; E = Effect of character on other people; A = Actions; and L = Looks**. What does indirect characterization reveal about Raskolnikov in Chapter One? (The absence of one or more of these aspects may be conspicuous.)
2. The crime occurs on pages 62-65. Consider Alyona's point of view and creatively write her account of the event.
3. See Part VI, Chapter 2 (pages 352-363). Characterize Porfiry Petrovich's tone as you analyze his diction and syntax.
4. For Dostoevsky the highest significance for man lies in suffering, as Christ's death on the cross demonstrates. Compare and contrast Dounia's and Raskolnikov's physical and spiritual suffering. (You must **limit** yourself in this question; determine a chapter or specific scenes that illustrate your points. If you don't limit yourself, you may spend the entire summer suffering!)