

**SUMMER 2008 READER-RESPONSE JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT
SENIOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH**

1. Read the following works. No Spark or Cliff's Notes, etc. or movie substitutions.

Crime and Punishment - Fyodor Dostoevsky
The Trial – Franz Kafka
Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Choose one of the following works:

Billy Collins - Sailing Alone Around the Room
Stephen Dunn - New & Selected Poems
Lisel Mueller - Alive Together
Linda Pastan - Carnival Evening

2. Keep a reader-response journal: typed, double-spaced, twelve-point font.
Please follow these directions for the novels:

- A. Type the author's last name and the first word of the title on the left-hand side of each entry at the top of each page.
- B. Type the date of the journal entry at the top right hand side of the page, along with the page numbers covered by the entry.
- C. Begin each entry on a new page in your journal.
- D. Write two journal entries each for Crime and Punishment, Wuthering Heights, and The Trial, one for the first half and one for the end of each book.
- E. Each entry should be approximately 300 words long.
- F. One entry per novel may be "free response." Respond to whatever struck you, emotionally or intellectually, in the reading.
- G. For the remainder of the entries, choose elements from the following list as the focus of your response. Vary your choices over the course of your reading. In the left margin, give the *element or elements*, which you've chosen for that response.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. setting/atmosphere | e. tone | i. things that remind you of |
| b. symbolism | f. irony and satire | other books that you've read |
| c. use of figurative language | g. "aha's" of discovery | j. interesting ideas or philosophical |
| d. character development | h. author's word choice | questions/themes |
| | (diction) | k. allusions (mythological/Biblical) |
| | | l. point of view |

3. There are two poetry entries for your journal as well:
- After reading your poetry book, choose your favorite poem and tell me what you liked about it and why you liked it in a well-developed paragraph. Also, in a second well-developed paragraph, reflect upon the poet's overall style and voice. What makes this particular book of poems unique and interesting?
 - Write your own poem. Choose one poem in the collection and emulate the poet's style and voice. Keep close to its rhythm, tone, and pattern. Incorporate your own imagery, figurative language, and surprise (juxtapositions of unlike ideas, images, and realities). *Be sure to also type up the poem you are emulating.*

(Alternative: After reading your poetry book, write your own poem emulating the *overall* style and voice of the poet).

4. Your journal entries are due on the first day of class. Place them in a pocket folder. They will be evaluated for their clarity, variety, depth, insight, and quality of expression.

IMPORTANT:

- Assume that your reader has read the work; do NOT summarize the plot.
- These responses are not essays; you should not write overly generalized introductions and conclusions. However, all responses, even the free responses, should have a specific focus and a good development of that focus. I am looking for focused thinking, responding, and writing based upon a technique or element found in literature. Each journal entry should take about 40 minutes to complete.
- Do NOT use secondary sources. You will be given a "0" if you use a source like "Cliff's Notes" or if you go to the Web for even part of your entries. I am interested in your reading, thinking, and writing, not someone else's. Do not share your entries with another student. Copying or adapting another student's work, or allowing him (or her) to do so, also constitutes cheating on this assignment. Please refer to the attached Language Arts Cheating and Plagiarism Policy for further clarification. Sign and return this sheet with your journal.

Feel free to stop by room 117 if you have any questions. I hope you enjoy the literature you are assigned to read and writing about it. Your journals are an excellent preparation for English AP and a way for me to get to know you. I am looking forward to meeting you in late August. —G. Brown/T. Spitsberg