**Welcome to AP English!! Summer 2012**

You are now officially an APE! (Advanced Placement English student)

This letter will tell you everything you need to know to get started on your Advanced Placement studies over the summer. Please don’t hesitate to come talk to me or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns.

This summer you will be reading three books: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Visit my website (address below) for more information on all three books. Start with the Foster; it will help you read and analyze the novels. You may read the novels in either order.

Honors English students are responsible for acquiring their own copies of the books. Check with local libraries, bookstores, or even upperclassmen who may be willing to part with their copies.

As you read this summer, you will also be posting e-mailing me your responses to discussion questions. You will be required to post four responses in time for four separate deadlines: June 15th, July 1st, July 15th, and August 1st. The four questions are printed on the back of this letter so that you may e-mail your responses at any time. If you know you’ll be away from a computer at these deadlines, post IN ADVANCE!

The questions listed here (and posted on the class wikispace page in case you lose this letter!) are to prompt your thinking. Each response must be at least 200 words long (yes, I will be checking), and, of course, school appropriate.

Remember: summer reading is an English department requirement for all honors courses. These online discussion responses will count as your first test grade of first semester when we return to school in the fall, so make sure you meet all four deadlines! If you run into technical issues over the summer, you can e-mail or phone me, and we’ll work something out. Please contact me at least 24 hours BEFORE the deadline if you are going to miss it for any reason. **Any deadlines that are missed and unexplained will result in docked grades.**

If, for some reason, e-mailing is just not a possibility for you, you will need to snail mail your postings to me through the school in plenty of time for the deadlines. Come see me BEFORE you leave for the summer, and we’ll set it all up.

I think that’s it! Check the back of the letter for the questions/prompts. Contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Have a great summer, and I’ll see you next fall!

Miss Bergman

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AP SUMMER READING QUESTIONS: You may choose either novel or both novels to answer questions 2, 3, and 4. Just make sure you’ve used each novel for at least one question so I’m sure you’ve read it. ☺

**1st Question: Due June 15th**

Let's take some of Foster's precepts and apply them to books we've already read. Choose a book (or maybe a movie) that includes a significant quest, meal, monster, reference to other literature, weather, flight, geographic move, etc., and tell us about it. Describe the significant element or scene, and discuss whether or not it fits with Foster's explanations in his chapter on that topic. Is your book/movie using the device seriously or with a touch (or strong dose) of irony? How would the story be different if this element were changed or removed?  
  
**2nd Question: Due July 1st**

Let's take some of Thomas C. Foster's literary theories and apply them to the novel you just finished. In which of Foster's chapters could your novel be used as an example? The chapter on quests? On monsters? On weather? Geography? Physical markings? Blindness? You can use the novel in its entirety or just a character, conflict, setting, chapter, or scene. Describe how the novel fits--ironically or seriously--with Foster's theories on the subject.  
  
**3rd Question: Due July 15th**

Consider the number of deaths, both literal and metaphorical, that occur or are referenced in both The Kite Runner and Jane Eyre. What function do the deaths serve? Do they simply drive the plot forward, or do they work on a deeper, symbolic level? Which literal death seems to impact the protagonist most? Which metaphoric death is of the most impact? Were there any characters that didn’t need to die, in your opinion, or any characters you were really hoping would be killed off? How would you answer this question that is often directed at authors or literature teachers: Why is there so much death in books?

**4th Question: Due August 1st**

Each of the novels has a dominate protagonist--one male, one female. Choose one of the protagonists and analyze his/her relationship with at least two characters of the opposite sex. (That is, Amir and two female characters or Jane and two male characters) In what way do these characters play important, often life-changing, roles in the lives of the protagonist? Are these characters well-developed, complex characters, or do they merely represent the stereotypical male or female, OR do they serve more of a symbolic purpose?

RESOURCES:

Newton Public Library—computers; books; librarians—always a good resource!

Newton High School: 316-284-6280—secretaries—always a good resource!

Miss Bergman: E-mail: [cbergman@newton.k12.ks.us](mailto:cbergman@newton.k12.ks.us)

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Class Website: [englishbookcorner.wikispaces.com](http://www.englishbookcorner.wikispaces.com)