All 12th grade students, whether enrolled in English IV Honors or Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, are required to read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. In addition, students enrolled in English IV Honors are to read *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood* by Alexandra Fuller; students enrolled in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition are to read *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

“Published in 1958, the story chronicles pre-colonial life in Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century.” Students should read for literary significance and the social commentary Achebe is making about colonization. Students should be prepared for an assessment on the book on the first day of school.

*Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood* by Alexandra Fuller

Alexandra Fuller's memoir tells the story of white tenant farmers living in Rhodesia, which is now Zimbabwe, in the years before and after the country's 1980 Independence from Great Britain. Students should be able to discuss what the text reveals about the problems of post-colonial identity, including the relationship between personal and cultural identity. Students should consider issues of power, economics, politics, religion, and the negative impact of colonialism in Africa. Students should be prepared for an assessment on the first day of school.

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

This classic Russian novel focuses on the mental anguish and moral struggles of Rodion Raskolnikov a poor young man who has discontinued his schooling. The main character devises a plan to alleviate himself from the struggles of poverty. His fateful decision leads to a life of confusion, guilt, sickness and a worse life than he had before. His agonizing journey leads him to the desolation of Siberia, where the harsh conditions mirror what his life has become. Students should concentrate on the literary techniques of imagery, symbolism, characterization and setting. Students should be prepared for an assessment on the first day of school. Students should also be prepared to write about the novel in depth.

While you are not required to complete a writing assignment on the reading over the summer, you are responsible for the reading and creating meaning from it. Bring copies of the books with you when you report to school.

Note: The stipulation that students are not required to complete a writing assignment on the summer reading may not apply to students who enroll in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition.