AP Literature Summer Assignment

Crime and Punishment

These questions are from Part I of Crime and Punishment. This assignment is meant to get you started in the novel and give us a starting place for our study and discussion.

This assignment is mandatory and will be utilized the first day of class. It must be hand written on separate sheets of paper. All answers should be accompanied by a page number from an unabridged edition of the novel. This assignment should be done independently. If you have questions, please feel free to email me over the summer at cindy.montgomery@mnps.org. I look forward to a great year with you.

Describe the condition (weather, living conditions, sensory details) of St. Petersburg (Petersburg) at the opening of the novel. What tone do the conditions establish?

What do we learn about Raskolnikov in Chapter 1? Write down one quote from the text that you think is important to your understanding of Raskolnikov.

Describe Alyona Ivanovna.

What is Marmeladov’s story?

Who is Sonya?

What is the physical condition of Katerina Ivanovna?

Describe in detail what information is contained in the letter Raskolnikov (“Rodya”) receives from his mother, Pulcheria.

The following quote is from Part I, Chapter IV about the young girl who is in the park and has had too much to drink. There is a man who is obviously trying to capitalize on the situation. Raskolnikov intervenes on her behalf and these are some of his thoughts about her situation. Dunechka, mentioned in the quote, is Raskolnikov’s sister.

“They say that’s just how it ought to be. Every year, they say, a certain percentage has to go…somewhere… to the devil, it must be, so as to freshen up the rest and not interfere with them. A percentage! Nice little words they have, really: so reassuring, so scientific. A certain percentage, the say, meaning there’s nothing to worry about. Now, if is was some other word… well, then maybe it would be more worrisome… And what if Dunechka somehow gets into the percentage!... If not that one, then some other?...”

What does the quote say about how poverty affects people’s choices?
What does the quote reveal about Raskolnikov’s feelings about his sister?

Describe in detail the dream Raskolnikov has about the old horse that is tied to a cart too heavy for it to pull.

Please describe how this dream makes you feel – there is no right or wrong answer to this question – I am looking for your personal, emotional response.

You might want to look up the word *visceral* if you do not know what it means. It will come up in class discussion as we study this novel.

Describe the murder of Ivanovna. What innocent person is also murdered?