June 5, 2015

Dear Sophomore Honors English Student:

Welcome to Honors English at Bingham High School! We are excited to work with you throughout this challenging and exciting course. It is essential that you spend the summer reviewing and preparing for the challenge ahead of you. Don’t be intimidated by the work; it is easily manageable if you begin immediately and break it into sections.

Summer Literature Study

1. **Read Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables***. You need to read an abridged version which should be approximately 300 pages, depending on the edition. Please plan early to secure a copy of this book as it will probably be unavailable in the county’s library system the week before school starts. 😊

2. **Write a literary essay about the novel**. You must choose a major character from the novel that you are most like and explain *why you are most like that character*. Please be aware of the following:
   - A literary essay is NOT a book report or a summary of the plot. Instead, it is the writer’s analysis of a specific aspect of the book (i.e. how you are most like a chosen character).
   - A formal essay has a specific organization that usually consists of five well-developed paragraphs: an introduction, three development paragraphs, and a conclusion. A literary essay *uses quotes from the text* to support the writer’s ideas.
   - The introductory paragraph is very important. State your thesis. A thesis is a sentence that states your position (why you are most like the chosen character) and three reasons/examples why.
   - The three body paragraphs each expand on the reasons/examples that support your thesis. Each should begin with a topic sentence. In each paragraph, be sure to include at least one quotation from the book with a page number reference. Use transition words and phrases between paragraphs.
   - The concluding paragraph should tie your writing together in a clear, cohesive essay. Restate your thesis in a new way, and conclude with a final sentence that leaves a lasting impression on your reader.
   - Do not consider the paper finished until you have revised and edited carefully. You will submit all pre-writing efforts (outline, brainstorm, etc.) and all drafts stapled behind your final copy.

Literary Elements

The final component of your homework consists of an extensive list of literary elements, their definitions, and examples. Work throughout the summer in studying these terms—in this case especially, procrastination will render the task nearly impossible. You will be held accountable for the definitions of these terms. It is important to memorize; however, if you focus on thoroughly understanding the examples, then the memorization will come more easily.

We look forward to seeing you for a great year!

Sincerely,

Emily Sell
Amber Trapp

Bingham High School
Honors English Program