

May 27, 2009

Dear Incoming English IV IB Students:

I congratulate you on a successful year in the IB program and know that your senior year will continue to be rewarding. You have my admiration and gratitude for accepting the challenge of International Baccalaureate English at Bowie. Your sacrifice of time and energy (and the occasional night's sleep) is appreciated and you will be rewarded far beyond high school.

Your **summer reading** for English IV IB will be *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. Although not mandatory, purchasing the book so you can mark it up as you read is a good idea. When you return for the fall semester, your knowledge and understanding of the work will be measured by both an objective and essay test. There are two ways to prepare for these assessments.

As you read, you will respond to Jane's self-image in each "community" and how it parallels with the world's (individual and societal) view. There are **five** short written responses due during the summer. These short writings will serve a number of purposes: keep you involved in the reading, help you to go deeper into the meaning of the work, and allow me to see personal and group writing styles to help prepare for the upcoming school year. These assignments will be turned in through turnitin.com* and more specifics about these assignments are on a separate hand-out and can be found through a link on my website.

Another way to prepare you for the tests and keep you involved in the reading is to become involved in a forum. Throughout the summer you will be expected to join an online chat about the reading. Questions, observations, or prompts will be given to begin the conversation, but as a member of the conversation, you are welcome to bring in your own questions and observations. These chats are a great way to delve deeper into the work keeping you more engaged.

A few year's ago a summer essay was added, and they have been so good that you get to write one too! These types of assignments give me a head start in knowing something about you beyond your classroom face. So please write a personal essay or letter describing yourself in setting teachers wouldn't ordinarily see you in. Please make it rich in imagery and detail and in personal resonances. Here's an example of what I am looking for: My heart rate is climbing, my legs are heavy and my arms move reluctantly as my body awkwardly tries to rally together to create a systematic rhythm to the beats of the music playing in my ears. As one song ends and the next begins, my *mind repeats the mantra "The first mile is your warm-up."*

I love running. It is my outlet. My runs are usually early in the morning when no one else is around. The only signs of life are the morning birds sweeping down to catch the waking insects as they rise from the dew sprinkled grass. Because of the quiet stillness, I can hear my body engage in the experience. My feet pound on the pavement, my rapid breathing becomes heavy, and after the first mile, my legs and arms rhythmically move to the songs playing on my iPod. Get the idea? This will obviously be in first person and can be informal in tone and voice. Please hit at least 300 words. If you want to read more of this essay, see the link on my website.

If you have questions or anxieties or would just like to touch base, please call me at (817) 905-2661 or email me at scochra1@aisd.net. Have a wonderful summer—see you in August.

Created by Sue Cochran

IB English IV – Summer Reading Assignment Due Dates

Response #1 (*chapters I-IV*)

Community: Relatives

Due date: on or before June 20, 2009

Response #2 (*chapters V-X*)

Community: School

Due date: or before July 3, 2009

Response #3 (*chapters XI-XXVII*)

Community: Thornfield

Due date: on or before July 25, 2009

Response #4 (*chapters XXVIII-XXX*)

Community: Moor House

Due date: on or before August 10, 2009

Response #5 (*chapters XXXI-end*)

Community: Home

Due date: on or before August 22, 2009

Your responses should be around 150 words. Please do not range too far above or below this number. In your writing, discuss how Jane sees herself within her community and how it parallels with the world's (individual and society) view. Be sure to use specific support from the text (this means quoting the book, not just paraphrasing) citing the page number after the quote. Each passage should contain at least TWO direct quotes from the reading. Though Jane's words and thoughts are important, note how she responds to others, her actions, and the actions and words of those around her to help you with your response. These responses should be written in third person and literary present tense.

Please be sure to put your name on each response along with a word count. Though not required, you might want to put a title that reflects the ideas in your paper on each response.

Submitting your Summer Responses

You will submit your essay through turnitin.com. Below are the directions to set up your account.

TURNITIN.COM—FOR STUDENTS

1. Go to www.turnitin.com
2. Click on **create a user profile** in the top right hand corner
3. Under the **select user type...**, select **student** and click **next**
4. Enter your **Turnitin class ID**: 2740989
Enter your **Turnitin class enrollment password**: cochran
5. Follow the prompts to complete the rest of the profile information and record your:
User name (email address): _____
Password: _____
6. When your user profile is complete, click **end wizard and log in**
7. Click on **help!** And read **How do I submit a paper?**

If you do not have access to the internet, please see me before school is out to make arrangements for turning in the responses.