Dear Incoming English I Pre-AP Parents and Students:

Welcome to English I Pre-AP! I look forward to meeting all of you next year! In order to enrich your learning experiences, I have prepared a curriculum that is both challenging and engaging.

How is Pre-AP different from the regular English classes? Over the course of the year, we will study novels, short stories, informational text and plays with intensive reading, writing, and thinking skills. You will be expected to work at a deeper level, and in order to be able to discuss, debate, speculate, hypothesize, and make connections to other works and other disciplines during class, you will be expected to complete some reading and some prep work at home.

This summer you will read the book ***Jurassic Park*** by Michael Crichton. Included in this letter are your summer reading assignment directions; please read the directions very carefully and email me if you have any questions. Please remember that I, too, am on vacation and will not be checking email on a daily basis. I will respond to any questions as soon as I am able.

You will turn in your summer reading dialectical journal on the second day of school, August 29. It is imperative that you allow yourself enough time to thoroughly read the novel as well as put effort into your journal. Because we will be using this novel as the basis for much of the work completed during the first six weeks of school, students are expected to bring their annotated copy of their novel upon teacher request.

If possible, students should purchase their own copies of the novel. It is an advantage to be able to annotate and take notes in the margins and underline or highlight notable passages. You may buy these books cheaply online and find copies at area bookstores such as Half-Price Books. You may also check out your chosen works from the public library. However, you would not be able to take notes in the text.

**Annotations:**

While reading the novel during the summer, students are highly encouraged to annotate (highlight and make notes in the margins) of the text.

***What kinds of things could you annotate?***

• words and phrases that stand out to you

• important scenes or key sections of dialogue

• character descriptions, motivations, and flaws

• key decisions characters make

• sections that are confusing for you

• questions that pop into your head as you are reading

• inferences you make while reading

• connections you make to other texts, films, t.v. shows

• connections you make to your personal life

• symbols, themes, topics

• literary devices (flashbacks, foreshadowing, sub-plots) used

• figurative language (allusions, alliteration, metaphors, similes, etc.) used effectively

**Directions for Dialectical Journal:**

While reading the selected novel during the summer, students are expected to document and comment upon at least 10 quotations/excerpts from the novel in their dialectical journals to be turned in and used during discussions and assignments throughout the first weeks of class.

**What are you looking for?**

**Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Allusion, Hyperbole, Idiom, Alliteration, and Onomatopoeia**

As you read, look for several quotations/excerpts from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel that represent a figurative language. Remember, you will be expected to explain and comment on the meaning; do not simply repeat or summarize what you read. Students will likely be much more successful if they have chosen a vast array of quotations/excerpts. **Below are several ideas to help you as you look for quotations and excerpts:**

**Figurative Language:** Choose quotations/excerpts to identify effective examples of these devices: metaphors, similes, personification, and/or allusion. An allusion is a reference to someone or something known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science or some other branch of culture.

Don’t wait until the week before school begins to try and read your selected novel and complete your dialectical journal. Unexpected events may pop up that could get in the way of you completing your work on time. Make a plan for the number of pages or chapters you are going to read per week and stick to it. The same goes for finding your quotations/excerpts. Work on it while you are reading. Do not wait until you are finished with the novel.

**Important dates:**

● **Dialectical journal with 10 entries due by August 29, the second day of school**

● **Students who register for the first time after August 1 will have until the end of the first six weeks**

Thank you,

Jill Brown

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