Welcome to AP English Literature! We will spend the upcoming year preparing for the 2010 AP English Literature exam by reading various genres, including poetry, novels, short stories, and drama. In order to prepare for a demanding yet pleasant school year, you are required to complete the following assignments.

Part I Summer Reading: Please be aware: You will be tested on all three novels in the first two weeks of school.

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay (not the condensed version)*
The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien*
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison*

*You are responsible to annotate your novels. Please see below on what it means to annotate a text. I will ask to see your annotated text.

Part II AP Free Response Essay: The Power of One
Email to chsapenglish@gmail.com no later than August 10, 2009. Students handing in late papers will be penalized by 10 points each day late.)

The following essay prompt has been adapted from a past AP English Literature Exam:
In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Use the novel, The Power of One to demonstrate a character that must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

This essay should be no shorter than 2 pages in length (double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman) and you are not required to use outside sources. Quotes from the text are advised, you are responsible to use proper MLA format for citations, however you do not need to include a Works Cited Page.

Part III Answer the following questions for Invisible Man. This assignment is due the first day of school.

Answer the following questions and be prepared to discuss and be tested on Invisible Man the first week of school.
Trace the growth of the narrator in the following areas:
  • release of emotions
  • acceptance of heritage
  • awareness of self

The central question of the novel is: “How can one person make a difference when all of the avenues to power are occupied by the duplicitous?” No matter where the narrator tries to pursue success and autonomy in an authentic manner, he finds the road ahead of him blocked by those who have decided to collude against those below. Is the protagonist successful in making a difference in this duplicitous world? Please explain with detailed evidence from the novel.
What Does it Mean to “Annotate?”

To annotate means to make notes directly on the text, directly on the page. It is a way of tracing your thinking as you read, and it helps create a roadmap to texts that you can return to and build upon later. Good readers are thinking all the time. Annotation is the first proof of your thought.

So what should you respond to as you read? Well, anything that jumps out at you or seems important. This might include, but is not restricted to:

- Choices in diction
- Definitions of words you don’t understand (look them up!)
- Powerful use of metaphor or symbolism
- A connection between one text and another
- Particular images
- Questions the text raises
- Patterns
- Responses to tone

Bottom line: “Talk” to and interact with each text as you read. Let it know what you’re thinking, feeling, asking, noticing. Write your thoughts in the margins, circle powerful words, underline effective or thought-provoking passages. Read and think!