

Colonie Central High School  
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Albany, NY 12205

June 2010

Dear Incoming English 11 AP Prep Students and Parents:

Reading is one of the most valuable and pleasurable habits you can develop. Much of our class time together next year will be spent reading, talking and writing about what we read. A vast majority of the works we read throughout the course of the year beginning with the Anglo-Saxons all the way through the Victorian Age have a multitude of allusions and references to the *Bible*. As a direct result of this, we intend to utilize the Bible solely as a literary instructional instrument for preparation of reading and interpreting these allusions within our curricular texts as well as our required summer reading book. You will read:

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver **AND** the following selections from the *Bible*:

(We encourage you to read the version of the Bible that you feel most comfortable with; however, we recommend the Standard Revised Edition, or by consulting this web address:

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/r/rsv> and click the "browse the bible" link).

The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-4, 6-9, 18-19, 37

Gospel of Luke: Chapters 1-2

The Book of Exodus: Chapters 1-3, 12, 14

The Book of Judges: Chapters 13-16

Gospel of John: Chapter 11

The Book I of Samuel: Chapters 18-20

The Gospel of Matthew: Chapter 27

The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 14

**For the required novel and biblical selections, complete the following:**

1. For each biblical selection, we strongly encourage you to complete a 5x8 index card regarding the following information: title and chapter and plot summation on one side, and observations of theme and didactic message on the flip side. These cards will be your reference guides and study aides throughout the course of the year.
2. For the novel, keep careful notes on characterizations, setting, conflict, plot structure, allusions, symbolism, motifs, irony, point of view, and themes. Examine how they contribute to author's intent and your understanding of the novel.
3. Keep careful notes on correlations between the novel's various divisions and its parallel selection in the *Bible*.

You will be required to compose an essay regarding these reading selections toward the end of September. Enjoy your summer! We look forward to meeting with you in September!

Sincerely,  
The English Department