

Name \_\_\_\_\_

CVSR/Mr. Kennedy

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading Assignment 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP English (Angela's Ashes and Crime & Punishment)**

Directions: After reading Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* and Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* (both required summer reading for all AP students), respond to **ONE** of the following prompts in a 500-word minimum typed essay. Make sure that your essay includes an introduction, a well-written body with ample evidence from the novels to support your response, and a conclusion. The essays must be typed and emailed to me @ MKennedy8@schools.nyc.gov or submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school.

1. Select a major character from your novel, one who has undergone a vital change throughout the novel. Write a carefully controlled expository essay in which you do the following: Contrast the character as he/she is at the beginning of the novel with how he/she is at the end. Why did the character change in attitudes and/or behavior? Is this change believable within the context of the story? Why or why not? Is the change beneficial to the character? Why or why not? What has the author revealed about his own attitudes toward life or his/her values through showing this character change?
2. Take a look at the characters in the novel that you've read. Each of the main characters in the novel is introduced to you with certain dreams, plans, and expectations. In the course of the novel, these main characters must come to terms with the difference between their dreams and the reality of the world around them. Write an essay in which you examine how the main characters navigate the journey from dreams to reality — What kind of course do they follow, and how are they changed for their journey?
3. Do a close examination of the setting in your novel. What are the primary locations? How are these places made realistic — how does the author use extended description, background information, and specific detail to make the setting come alive for readers? How do the main characters fit in the settings — do they seem at home? out of place? How do their reactions and interactions with the setting affect the realism of the locations? In your paper, discuss the way that the techniques that the novelist uses to make the setting vivid and real to readers, and the extent to which these techniques are effective.
4. In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life "is a search for justice." Choose the character from the novel who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character's understanding of justice, the degree to which the character's search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole