Your summer reading assignment is Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*. This is a long Russian novel that was first published in 1866.

While reading, you should occasionally discuss your thoughts about and reactions to the book in your Reader’s Notebook (the small composition book you were issued with the book). We will discuss the book at the beginning of the school year, and your Reader’s Notebook comments will be needed at that time. Make an entry in your Reader’s Notebook whenever you have some interesting thought or reaction, but at least write after each of the six parts of the book as well as after the brief epilogue.

The greatest difficulty in reading *Crime and Punishment* is dealing with the pronunciation of the characters’ names. Also, each character is referred to by more than one name. I have provided a list of the names of the major characters, including the variations of their names that are often used. Try to pronounce the names of the characters to yourself as you read, even if your pronunciation turns out to be incorrect. When thinking about Raskolnikov, for example, try to hear the sound of his name; do not just think “the R-guy.”

While reading, also think about the comments on “Reading Pointers for Sharper Insight,” which is on a separate handout.

Finally, teach yourself some vocabulary this summer. Pick at least ten new words that you encounter in the book. Write the definitions for these words in your Reader’s Notebook and note the page number on which each word can be found.