

English 11-R
Summer Reading Assignments 2007

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY
THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS IN SEPTEMBER.**

***PURCHASE**, on your own, and read **BOTH** of the following works about different types of “American Dreams”:

1) **Of Mice and Men** Novel by John Steinbeck

Here’s a tale of two friends, workers in California’s dusty fields, who dream of calling a little piece of land their own. But will the simple dreams of these simple laborers be fulfilled?

2) **A Raisin in the Sun** Play by Lorraine Hansberry

One of the great American plays of the 20th century! Follow the Younger family, African Americans who are forced to ask the question later posed by poet Langston Hughes, “What happens to a dream deferred?”

****THESE BOOKS MUST BE PURCHASED, NOT MERELY BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY. SUBSTANTIAL CLASS TIME WILL BE SPENT ON EACH OF THESE WORKS AND STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING THESE BOOKS TO CLASS UPON REQUEST.***

***YOU WILL INCUR AN ACADEMIC PENALTY
FOR BEING UNPREPARED FOR CLASS.***

**These books are available at any bookstore, or on-line, in new or used editions. We recommend:
www.barnesandnoble.com or www.amazon.com.*

ASSIGNMENTS: WORK MUST BE TYPED!

1. Read these selections with care! We recommend that you **ANNOTATE**—i.e. underline and write marginal notes as you read. As you read, note important aspects of the work that relate to the **ELEMENTS OF FICTION**—i.e. Setting, Conflict, Characterization, Theme, and Stylistic Elements such as Point of View, Symbol, Figurative Language, and Repetition. *Also note any time dreams are mentioned—a major theme.*

A multiple-choice and short answer TEST covering summer reading will be given in September! Also, we will be writing a Critical Lens essay using these works.

2. Complete the following list of questions (A, B, AND C) for *Of Mice and Men* AND *A Raisin in the Sun*. Be sure to fulfill all requirements (content, length, style, etc.) for **each** question.

A. Conflict. For each of the following characters, state a conflict in which each is involved using the following formula: **Character vs. [Some Specific Antagonist] over [a Specific Problem]**. Then state the Climax (point of highest tension/turning point) and Resolution of the conflict by the end of the novel/play. *Note: An antagonist need not be another person. It may be society, a setting, or even oneself. Also keep in mind that the “resolution” does not necessarily mean that the character gets what he wants in the end. Follow the example.*

Character: Rainsford

Conflict: Rainsford vs. Zaroff over surviving the manhunt in “The Most Dangerous Game.”

Climax: Rainsford surprises Zaroff in his bedroom and confronts him at gunpoint.

Resolution: Rainsford kills Zaroff and wins “the hunt.”

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Character List:

George Milton
Crooks
Curley's Wife

Walter Lee Younger
Lena Younger (Mamma)
Beneatha Younger

B. Elements of Style in the Literature. Provide a DIRECT QUOTATION and PAGE NUMBER from EITHER of the WORKS of literature that illustrates EACH of the following literary elements/techniques. Any response without a page reference will NOT be accepted. Then in a sentence or two, EXPLAIN the MEANING or SIGNIFICANCE of the literary element. Follow the example below:

Element: Pun
Work from which I've Taken My Example: *Romeo and Juliet*
Quote in Which This Element Appears: "Ask for me tomorrow, and you will find me a grave man" (Shakespeare 28).
Explanation: Mercutio means both "serious" and "dead" by the pun on "grave." He will be both dead and uncharacteristically serious and quiet after he dies.

Element/Technique List

(Find an Example of EACH in Any ONE of the Works: Steinbeck's or Hanberry's)

Foil (one character who is "an opposite" of another)
Foreshadowing
Irony
Metaphor
Setting and how it influences character and action
Symbol

C. Identify the dream of each of the following characters. Provide a DIRECT QUOTATION, with PAGE NUMBER, that backs up your answer. Once again, any response without a page reference will NOT be accepted. Then for each character, write a small paragraph that explains what you think his/her dream symbolizes or means to him/her. Use evidence from the book and include at LEAST THREE (3) specific examples from the text to back up your claim. Example is below:

Character: John Smith
His Dream: To be a baseball player.
Supporting Quote: "With tears in his eyes, John thought of the day that he would become a success and escape his upbringing, becoming a star like the Babe himself" (Anton 121).

Paragraph Explaining the Dream's Significance:

Your paragraph should be thorough and well-written, with a beginning, middle, and end. You should make direct references to the text and to literary elements such as characterization, symbol, and theme in order to explain what the dream symbolizes or means to him/her. Remember to include AT LEAST THREE EXAMPLES from the text to back up your response. Double space this paragraph.

Character List:

George Milton
Lenny Smalls
Crooks
Candy

Curley's Wife
Walter Lee Younger
Ruth Younger
Lena Younger (Mamma)

Beneatha Younger
Asagai

****WHEN INCLUDING PAGE REFERENCES,** Remember to use MLA citation style which includes the author's last name and the page number in parentheses.

E.g. From James Joyce's "The Dead":

By the end of the story, Gabriel learns that it is "better to pass boldly into that other world in the full glory of some passion than to fade and wither dimly with age" (Joyce 57).