

May, 2021

Greetings, Class of 2022!

Congratulations on the successful completion of one of the most challenging school years of a lifetime! We applaud your efforts and are looking forward to your continued growth in AP Literature and Composition. This is a College Board accredited course, and by taking this course and earning a qualifying score on the exam next May, you can receive college credit for your work. In its Course and Exam Description Manual, College Board describes this course as follows:

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

There are no prerequisites for this course, but to help you maintain your critical reading and thinking skills and to support AISD's reading initiative, we are asking that you choose one of the following plays to read over the summer. These plays are available on Amazon or at most bookstores; PDF formats are available online.

- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
(<https://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=2132&dataid=2776&FileName=Death%20of%20a%20Salesman%20Full-Text.pdf>)
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
(https://khdzamlit.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/6/11261956/a_raisin_in_the_sun_-_lorraine_hansberry.pdf)
- *Fences* by August Wilson
(<https://www.dailyscript.com/scripts/fences.pdf>)
- *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
(https://www.pval.org/cms/lib/NY19000481/Centricity/Domain/105/the_glass_menagerie_messy_full_text.pdf)
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
(<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2542/2542-h/2542-h.htm>)

These plays are all considered part of the “family tragedy” genre. As you read your chosen play, annotate for setting and character. Here are some questions to consider for annotations:

- Where and when does the play take place?
- What is the family’s situation?
- Is the family living in an urban or rural setting? How does that impact the plot?
- What historical or contemporary events influence the characters’ thoughts or actions?
- Who are the members of the family, and what roles do they play within the family?
- What motivates the family members? What does each one value?
- What are the dreams or goals of the family or family members?
- Do they realize their dreams? How? How not? What happens when they do or do not?
- Do any of the characters change or grow over the course of the play? How?

We will spend the first several weeks of the 2021 fall semester studying these plays and the characteristics of the dramatic tragedy. I encourage you to choose a play from the above list, annotate using the guiding questions, and, if possible, view a production of the play (you can find several of these at your local library).

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you next year. Have a great summer --sleep until noon if you desire, earn (and save!) some money at work, spend time with friends, and improve your talents and skills--all of these activities will create lasting memories of a time that goes by way too fast. But also find time to read and write. Pick up a novel that you’ve always been curious about. Maybe work on some college application and scholarship essays. These activities will help you maintain your reading and writing fluency. You will find that being able to clearly and accurately read texts and then efficiently and effectively express your ideas will make this course much more enjoyable.

If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Dunn at rdunn1@aisd.net. Have a wonderful summer! See you in August!