**High School Summer Reading Assignment—English 10H**

* ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**

The summer reading assignment requires that you read a text and complete the attached assignment. This summer work **will be DUE** in your English Language Arts class **on the first day of class**.

**The summer assignment has many purposes and values:**

1. Coming to class having read the same text allows students to begin with a common focus and it allows the class to begin deep instruction on the first day of class. It’s like getting a two-week head start on school.
2. This common reference point is used throughout the first few weeks to enhance the practice of active reading and teaching of deep text analysis.
3. The assignment rekindles the higher thought processes that we will begin using in earnest on the first day of class.
4. The project adds more award-winning and critically-acclaimed books to the students’ high school reading list, which is essential in preparing for the open question on the AP Literature Test.
5. The project prepares students for college experiences, now that many universities assign a common book to incoming freshmen.

**OVERALL ASSIGNMENT**: You are to read and annotate the play ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**. You are then to complete a 4x6 card (See back.) for this text. You must bring your book to class the first day of class. You must be prepared to discuss the text and complete assignments related to the text when school begins.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Obtain a copy of the text from your high school **book room** before you leave for summer break **OR** obtain a copy on your own from local **bookstores/online**.
2. Please LEGIBLY **annotate** your text for qualities of **culture** and the elements of **SIFTT** (Symbol, Imagery, Figurative Language, Tone, Theme). Please write in the margins of the text if you own your own copy or use sticky notes/double-entry journal if you are borrowing the text from the school.
3. Complete the 4x6 card.

**Reading and Annotating the Text:** *Thinking critically and analyzing a text*

**Your annotations should have two main foci:**

**Culture**: the shared set of arts, ideas, skills, institutions, customs, attitude, values, and achievements that characterize a group of people, and that are passed on or taught to succeeding generations

**SIFT**: Focus your annotations so that they track and identify the elements of SIFTT: Symbols, Image, Figurative Language, Tone, and Theme

* **Symbol:** anything (object, animal, event, person, or place) that represents itself but also stands for something else on a figurative level
* **Imagery:** a word or phrase that appeals to one or more of the 5 senses and creates a picture: visual, auditory, olfactory (smell), kinesthetic (motion/touch), gustatory (taste)
* **Figurative Language:** words or phrases that describe one thing in terms of another; not meant to be taken literally: similes, metaphors, personification
* **Tone:** a writer or speaker’s attitude toward a subject
* **Theme**: a writer’s central idea or main message about life

**4 X 6 CARDS**

PURPOSE: These cards are designed to help you keep a record to remember the various books you read over the course of your high school career. This will become particularly important should you choose to take the AP Literature and Composition test senior year because one of the essay questions on that test is an open-ended question that requires you to choose from a list of books one that you will use to write on the given prompt. Obviously the more books on that list that you’ve read and are familiar with, the better your chances will be of responding to the essay successfully. Your 4X6 cards, which will add up over the next couple years, will provide a study guide for you. This is also why you will notice the book list for your ORBs (Outside Reading Books) is compiled from the AP English Literature exam and shows the years each particular book appeared on the list of possible selections for the free-response essay. Hopefully this will help you strategically work to best prepare yourself.

ASSIGNMENT: You need to fill one of these out with the following information for each novel you read. Be sure to label each category on the card and write clearly and neatly. To be able to study from these cards effectively, they need to be clearly organized and legible. (These cards will continue throughout the year, as will our ORBs, so don’t lose these requirements or your book list).

* Title, author, dates of birth and death
* Original publication date of the book
* Setting (time and place)
* Brief plot review
* Characters (descriptions, antagonist, protagonist)
* Major symbols or allusions
* Distinguishing characteristics
* A key quote or two
* Your personal response to the content and style
* Theme or main idea (author’s message)
* Any other information you want to include that might be helpful to you in remembering the book.