



English III CP: American Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to English III! This summer, you are assigned two books to begin this course's study of American Literature. These works will begin our exploration of the course's central questions about the existence of the American Dream, perspectives on the American experience, and possible recurring American ideals and values. You will also complete a written assignment to continue to build the analytical and writing skills that you have learned and will continue to develop throughout the school year. The required summer reading books are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during the reading process. All written assignments are due the first full day of school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Cady at victoria.cady@saintjosephprep.org.

Required Reading:

- *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller. Penguin Books, ISBN 9780140481341.
- *Fences*, August Wilson. Plume, ISBN 978-0452264014.

Tasks:

1. Please **annotate as you read** each work. This is intended to encourage active reading in which you are engaged in the material and noting important developments or literary elements as you go.
 2. After reading both books, please **write a 2-page paper** in which you respond to the prompt below.
 - a. The theme of the American Dream is present in each of these works. How is the American Dream presented in each of the texts? In either book, is the American Dream achievable for the main characters? Why or why not? What does this suggest about the accessibility of the American Dream? Use detailed evidence from each text to support your claim.
- You should write in MLA format, including the proper header, font, margins, etc.
 - You will need to include textual evidence (quotations) with proper parenthetical citations to support your ideas in each body paragraph.