

**Summer Reading Assignment 2022**

In eleventh grade American Literature, we will explore the evolution of the American character through literary, social and historical texts. As you read one play this summer, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, consider this year's essential questions:

- a) What does it mean to be American?
- b) What is the American Dream?
- c) What are American truths and myths?
- d) What is the American ethos and how are these values reflected in our art, literature and culture?

**Researching:**

Before reading *A Raisin in the Sun*, research and take notes on the play's background, including information about the playwright and the time period in which the play is set (1950s). Focus on the social conditions of African Americans living in Chicago at that time.

**Pre-Reading:**

What do you think the poem "Harlem" by Langston Hughes at the very beginning of the book will have to do with the story of the play?

**Reading:**

While you're reading *A Raisin in the Sun*, be sure to annotate the text, look up words you don't know, underline memorable sentences/phrases and crucial details (character names, places, events, themes) in the work.

You will be assigned an essay during the first week of school. If you complete the reading early in the summer, I suggest that you review the book as well as your notes before returning to school.