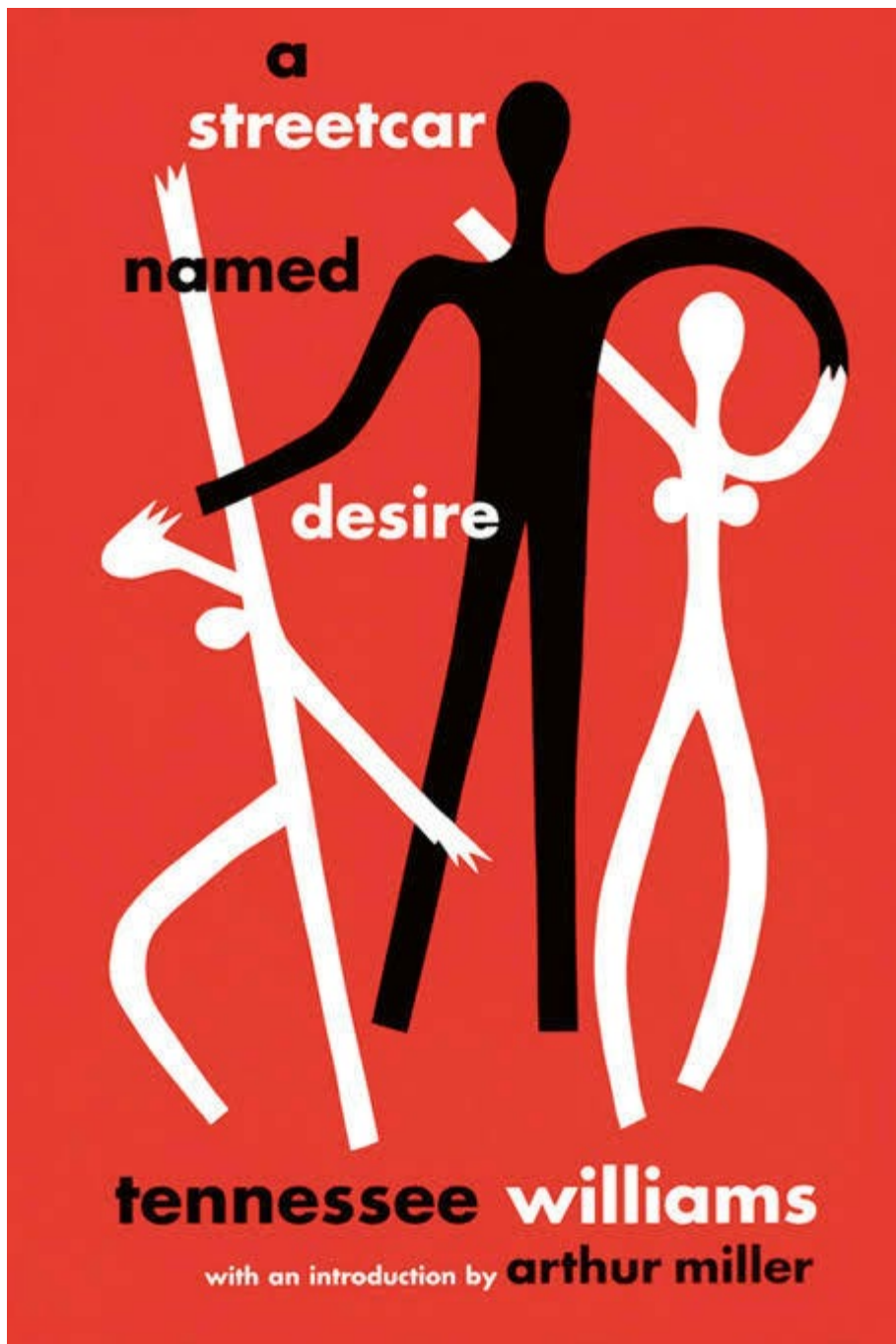




12th Grade Summer
Reading 2023

AP ENGLISH IV



A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

- Required for all AP ENG IV students
- Tennessee Williams' play won the Pulitzer in 1948. It is a classic that continues to impact audiences today
- Blanche DuBois, a Southern belle now fallen on hard times, comes to New Orleans to stay with her pregnant sister Stella and her brutish brother-in-law Stanley in their one-bedroom apartment.
- Tensions grow as Stanley questions Blanche's past life while taking out his frustrations on both sisters.

In addition, all students must read one of these titles:

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
by Edward Albee

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

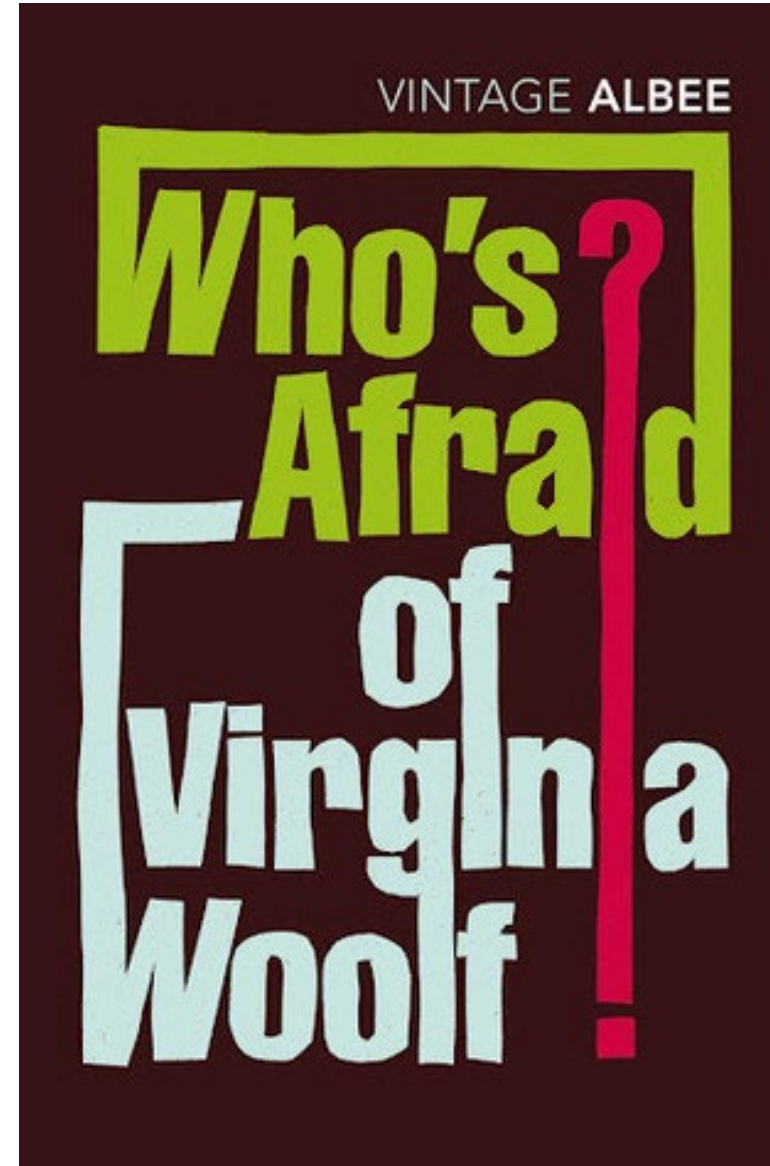
The Importance of Being
Earnest by Oscar Wilde

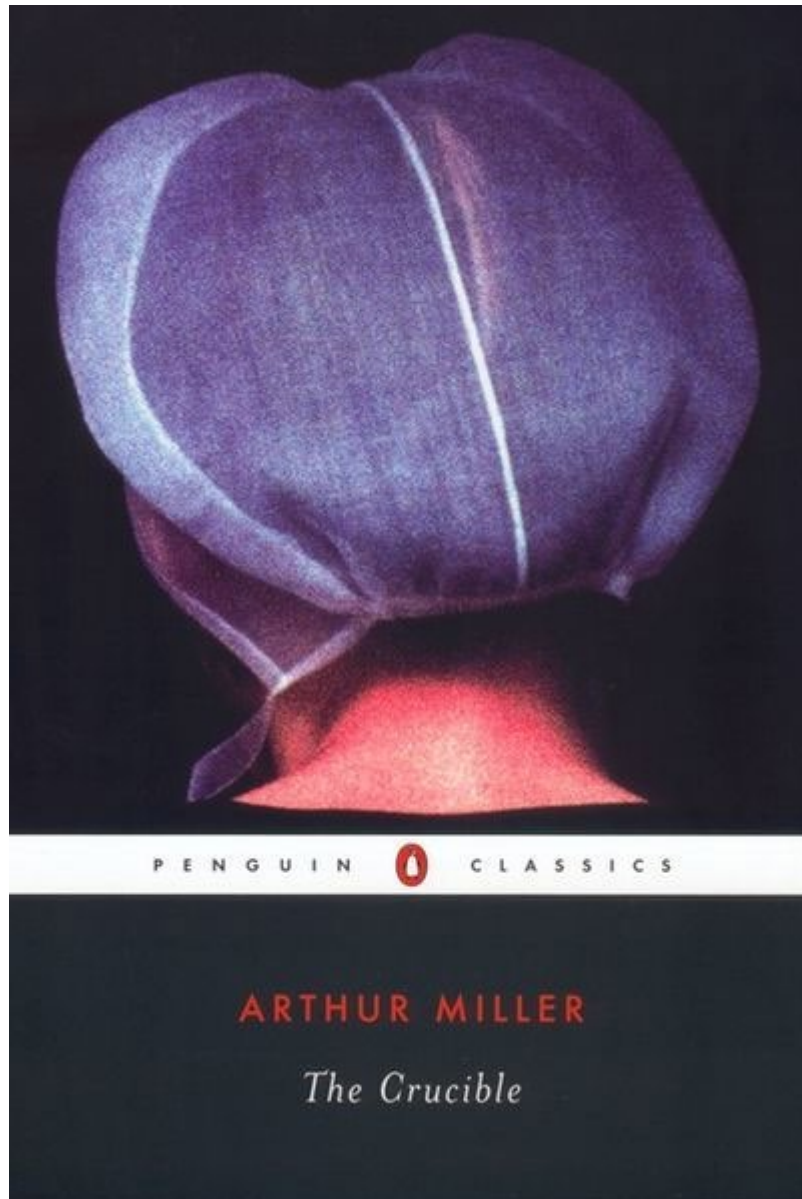
The Piano Lesson by August
Wilson

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Edward Albee's play debuted in 1962 and won the NY Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play.

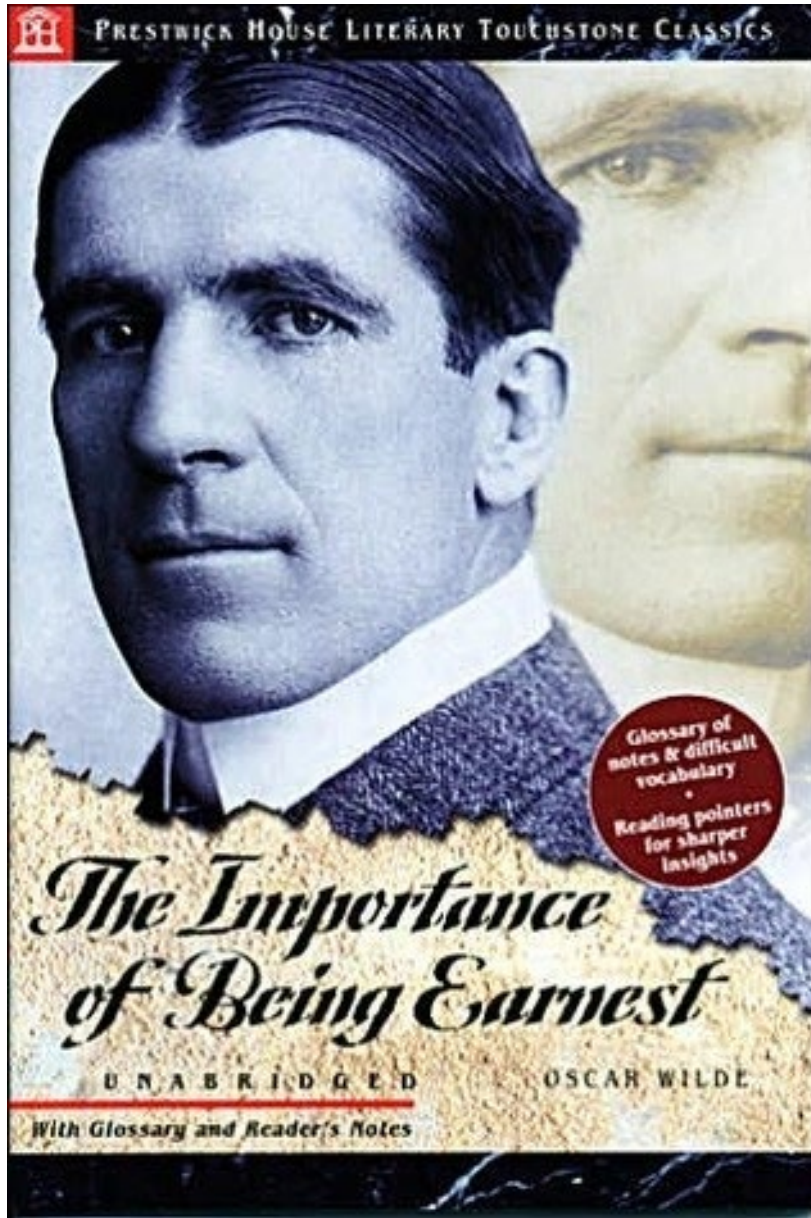
George and Martha are a middle-aged married couple who play cruel games with each other. Their guests for drinks, Nick and Honey, are a young couple who inadvertently find themselves caught up in the older couple's abusive manipulation and illusion.





The Crucible

- Arthur Miller's drama tells the real story of the Salem Witch Trials in 1692, when a group of young girls accuses a woman of witchcraft. The entire village is affected, hysteria takes hold, neighbors turn against neighbors, and soon several people are put on trial for heresy and witchcraft.
- Miller wrote his play in 1953, during the height of anti-communist hysteria. It was a critique of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his accusations against government employees, university professors, actors and screenwriters, and others.
- McCarthy supported the activities of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, that held public hearings, accusing hundreds of people of being Soviet sympathizers and Communists. Many people were blacklisted and lost their jobs because of the false accusations and publicity.



The Importance of Being Earnest

- Oscar Wilde's farce was published in 1895.
- Two men, Jack and Algernon, have pretended to be "Ernest"—a fictional character they invent to woo their chosen loves. Cecily and Gwendolen believe they are rivals for the same man's affection, the mythical "Ernest."
- The fur starts to fly when all four converge on Jack's country house for the weekend, and the mistaken identities and lovers' secrets spiral into chaos. The play's wit and comedy have made it a popular production since its debut.

The Piano Lesson

- August Wilson has written several plays depicting the black experience in the 20th century United States.
- The Piano Lesson is set in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1936, and centers on a dispute over an heirloom piano belonging to the Charles family.
- Sister Berniece believes they should hold it as a legacy (an enslaved ancestor carved its designs); the brother wants to sell the piano and use the money to buy land in Mississippi formerly worked by their enslaved ancestors.

