

**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2024**  
**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE/COMPOSITION**  
**MRS. TRACY**

For this assignment, you will get to choose TWO plays from a list and read and complete a dialectical journal regarding EACH play. The plays offer a glimpse of excellence in literature and theater from a diverse group of writers from the twentieth century. I hope that you will not only learn from reading your selected texts, but also appreciate and enjoy them. I also encourage you to read any of the other texts on this list as it will give you a wider range of texts to choose from for the FRQ 3 prompt on the AP exam.

As the nature of this course is rigorous and requires you to carefully read and thoughtfully analyze, please pay attention to directions and be thorough in your work. This assignment will count towards your first semester grade. **Failure to complete this assignment will affect your grade.** If you have any questions, you may contact me at [mtracy@bosco.org](mailto:mtracy@bosco.org).

**PLEASE NOTE: I am familiar with the material for these texts from sources like Spark Notes or Wikipedia and will know if your work comes strictly from these types of sources. You will also be required to upload your journal entries to Turnitin through Schoology, so please be sure to do your own work!**

**DUE DATE: THE MONDAY OF THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF CLASS**

**Please be ready to discuss and write about your chosen plays when class begins in August.**

***List of Plays (Choose Two)***

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry  
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams  
*Fences* by August Wilson  
*The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson

***Dialectical Journal Entries***

You will be keeping a dialectical journal for each of your selected plays. You will write at least TEN dialectical journal entries for each play. As you read, stop periodically to reflect on and analyze the reading. Write down a quotation from the play. Then write an explanation or analysis of the quotation. There is no required length for the responses, but the responses should be *thoughtful and meaningful*. The responses should include analysis of various elements of the plays. These elements could include conflict development, character development, setting, themes, symbolism, and the

writer's style (this includes elements such as diction, tone, and syntax). Your entries must address quotations from **throughout** the plays. **Please type your entries.**

The purpose of this activity is to develop your skills in critical thinking and reflecting. Therefore, avoid entries that seem to simply summarize the quotations. Use parenthetical citations (author's name and page number) in MLA format for each of the quotations.

**Example regarding another text:**

"The fair boy said this solemnly; but then the delight of a realized ambition overcame him. In the middle of the scar he stood on his head and grinned at the reversed fat boy" (Golding 8).

It is interesting that the writer, Golding, chooses to introduce the characters, but does not give their names right away to the reader. They are only described by their physical description, which may be an important factor later in the story.