

Honors World Literature Pre-Course Reading
Ms. Wickenheiser Room 267

Welcome to Honors World Literature! I look forward to exploring a range of diverse texts and a variety of perspectives from around the world with you. Our journey will take us through time and across continents in order to uncover the themes that connect us and our shared human experience.

The pre-course required reading is the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Students can purchase their own copy of the play or sign one out from the English department. See Ms. Wickenheiser.

Your reading of this text must be completed by the first day of class. Our coursework immediately begins by using this modern American work to make connections with other ancient and modern African texts. As evidence of reading and engagement, you will complete an assessment during the first few days of class. Your assessment will include objective questions, SAT style reading passages, and an in-class written response. You should take notes as you read *A Raisin in the Sun* to hold your thinking and give you something to review before the assessment, but you will not be able to use notes or electronic devices on the assessment.

Suggestions for Reader's Notes for *A Raisin in the Sun*

These notes are not required, nor will students be given credit for them. Having said that, the notes may help students engage in class discussion, and earn points for engaging thoughtfully in the discussion. What follows is a suggestion for a way of interacting and interpreting the text while reading.

A Reader's Journal is a series of written entries capturing a reader's experience over the course of a literary work.

The aim of a **Reader's Journal** is for you to interact with *A Raisin in the Sun* and record your thinking while reading the play. In keeping this journal, you are engaging in reader-response criticism, a valuable literary perspective in reading and responding to literature. Remember, your **Reader's Journal** is not simply a noting of characters, plot, symbolism, etc. Instead, it is your *response* to these elements working together and the effect they have on you, the reader.

Reader's Journal Response Questions:

Act I: What are your initial responses to the characters?

Act II: What big ideas are being developed through Act II?

Act III: Have your initial impressions of the characters changed? Why? How is the ending of the play complex?

After reading: What passages/ quotes were you most drawn to and why? Did you have any points of confusion whilst reading?

Helpful Hints: If you are having trouble beginning your sentences, consider these “thought starters.”

I noticed . . .

I wonder . . .

I was reminded of . . .

I think . . .

I’m surprised that . . .

I’d like to know . . .

I realized . . .

If I were . . .

Although it seems . . .

Source for “thought starters.” Donna Santman/ Kelly Gallagher