

AP English Literature and Composition 11 (AP English 11)
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment 2020

The summer reading for this course is as follows:

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

August Wilson, *Fences*

These texts are representative works of African American literature, marking different time periods and shifting cultural attitudes as well as providing a rich source of discussion for their companion pieces during the course of the year. Butler's *Kindred* will be revisited during our study of Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Hurston's classic of the Harlem Renaissance will be discussed in the context of that historic cultural movement. August Wilson's *Fences* examines an African American family living in urban Chicago in the fifties, while Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* focuses on a suburban white family in the same era. The summer reading, then, is meant to enrich and expand our discourse concerning American literature and how it reflects American history and culture.

With these ideas in mind, I give you the following writing assignment:

Choose one character, major or minor, from each of the three summer reading works. Imagine a situation in which these three characters are forced to interact for some length of time. Discussion ensues regarding some aspect of their individual worldview, their perspective on what the world is all about.

Write a believable dialogue between the three characters, paying some attention to the original characterization of each (i.e. the way that the character speaks, dresses, behaves, et cetera) and being sure to give each character a more or less equal amount of speaking time.

To focus the dialogue, you may consider the following possibilities:

- The three characters are invited to a Fictional Characters Convention and sit on the same panel, during which they are prompted to discuss among themselves their varying worldviews.
- The three characters, trapped on a deserted island, resort to discussing the likelihood of rescue from his or her individual point of view.
- Jailed accidentally for vagrancy, the three characters discuss the way that they view the world, the reasons for their imprisonment, and the likelihood of their release.

You may, of course, come up with your own setting and reason for gathering the characters. Originality is encouraged!

Dialogues must be three pages in length, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and must include relatively equal representation from each of the three characters. You are encouraged to stretch the limits of the language in order to accurately represent the narrative voice of each character. You will be graded for thoroughness and attention to detail, adherence to the assignment requirements, effort, and overall originality and creativity of the finished product.

PLEASE NOTE: Dialogues will be graded for a double essay grade and will be due on Tuesday, 8 September, 2020. There will also be a Summer Reading Test worth two test grades on Monday 14 September 2020. Failure to hand in a completed Summer Reading Assignment or failure of the Summer Reading Test will result in your removal from AP English 11.

When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes. --Erasmus