

Dear English II Honors Student,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to English II Honors for the 2015-2016 school year at Antioch Community High School. As part of the course work for our class, you will be **reading a choice novel** from the list provided, which you will be expected to discuss on the first day of class. ***In addition***, you will also be **reading a play** chosen from the list below, all of which are on the recommended AP reading list, and completing ***one*** of the assignments that follow:

Play Choices:

J.B. by Archibald MacLeish

No Exit by Jean Paul Sartre

The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

Assignment Choices:

- **Watch a film version of your chosen play, or see it live, and write a short (2-3 page) formal paper** that compares and contrasts the written version with the performance. Reference both works in your paper by giving examples from both. Be sure to write your paper in MLA format, in twelve-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and include a works cited and in-text citation for both the play and the film/performance. Share this paper with your teacher via Google Drive.
- **Make a movie poster** for your own movie version of the play. Cast your parts meaningfully, and include one or several scenes as you would envision them on your poster. Include a tagline (quote) from the play on your poster that sums up the play's main theme. This should be neat and clean, and should not contain pictures printed off the internet from existing productions of your play—it should be entirely original. **Include a one-page rationale**, typed in twelve-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, which explains what you have chosen for your cast and poster and why you have made these choices. Share this rationale with your teacher via Google Drive.
- **Design a set** for a production of your play. Research how sets are designed, and include a 3-D model of your set as you envision it. **Write a one-page rationale**, typed in twelve-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, which explains your set design, along with lighting and sound cues and the reasons you did what you did. Share this rationale with your teacher via Google Drive.

❖ ***In addition, also write a one-paragraph response to this question:***

How does your chosen play show what it means to be human? Be sure you write in a thoughtful, detailed manner and that you use examples to support your statements. Type this in twelve-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and share it with your teacher via Google Drive.

This summer assignment is **due on the first day of class**. All work is to be typed in twelve-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and presented in MLA format. (Upper left corner, your name, teacher's name, class, date). You will be sharing your novel choice and project and working with your play on the first few days of class. Please take your time with this assignment. Be thoughtful and creative. English II Honors will be an intensive reading and writing class. We value the sharing of ideas, opinions, evidence, and collaborative learning. You will be developing your own "voice." Please let your creativity and personality show in your work. We encourage your parent/guardian to read this book and play with you. If they would like more information about the selections, they can contact the English department chair whose telephone number and email are listed at the bottom of this letter.

For class, you will need a folder exclusively for English. Please bring this, along with your completed assignments, on the first day of school.

If you would like to contact us before school starts (questions, concerns, opinions, comments), that would be great! We check e-mail at least once a week – usually more often. We are looking forward to meeting you in August. Have a terrific summer.

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