

11th Grade AP Lang. and Comp. SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be working on **TWO** summer reading assignments. Before returning to school, you will complete both:

Assignment One: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

Assignment Two: Independent Read!

All summer work is due when our class meets on the first day of school. You will submit your assignments via our google classroom and turnitin.com . Please use MLA formatting.

I. **Assignment 1: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller**

Directions: You will need to read the play, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Act 1

1. What do you learn about Willy from the first stage direction?
2. What instances of stealing are in the play? Why do Biff and Happy steal? Where did they learn about stealing? How is stealing related to salesmanship?
3. In Act 1, Willy claims “I never in my life told him [Biff] anything but decent things.” Is this assertion true? What does it show you about Willy?

Act 2

4. What does Willy’s difficulty with machines – especially his car, the refrigerator, and Howard’s tape recorder – suggest about him? To what extent are these machines symbolic?
5. When Willy sees Bernard in Charley’s office, he asks, “What – what’s the secret?” What secret is he asking about? Does such a secret exist?
6. In Act 2, speech 867, Biff claims “we never told the truth for ten minutes in this house!” What does he mean? To what extent is he right?

General Questions

1. How does Miller use lighting, the set, blocking, and music to differentiate between action in the present and “memory” action? How is this differentiation significant to the play?
2. The stage directions are full of information that cannot be played. In describing Happy, for example, Miller notes “sexuality is like a color on him.” What is the function of such stage directions?
3. How is Willy’s suicide foreshadowed throughout the play? To what extent does this foreshadowing create tension?

4. Which characters are “real” and which are “hallucinations” that spring from Willy’s memory? What are the major differences between these two groups?
5. Which characters are symbolic and what do they symbolize?
6. Willy claims that success in business is based not on “what you do” but on “who you know and the smile on your face! It’s contacts . . . a man can end up with diamonds on the basis of being well liked.” How does the play support or reject this assertion?

II. Assignment 2: Nonfiction Free Read!

Read a book for fun! This selection is your choice! When choosing a book, please consider:

- Reading Level- *Harry Potter* will not do! This should be college level.
- Books that have been recognized, especially for more modern titles. For example, the books, and/or authors, I plan on reading this summer have been listed on New York Times Bestsellers List.
- The list of titles from the past AP Literature Exams.
- Appropriateness- please use discernment when choosing your book.

Assignment:

1. Create a dialectical journal. Choose 15 quotes that resonate with you.
2. See “Dialectical Journal” for specifics, guidelines, and rubric: [Dialectical Journal](#)

III. Additional (optional)

If you are interested in completing additional enrichment activities that will help you prepare for your year in AP Language and Composition, please consider my following recommendations:

1. Listen to a podcast
2. Watch documentaries
3. Stay updated with current events
4. Read...anything!
5. Complete a virtual tour of a library/museum/etc.

These additional enrichment activities are NOT required.

Have a wonderful summer!