

## English 10/10 Honors: American Literature

All students are required to read **two** texts this summer: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and one classic American play that is assigned by level. Students are asked to write a short essay of 1-2 pages (meaning *at least* one page but *no more than* two pages) for each text based on the assigned prompt.

All summer work is due on the first day of class. Please have your essays printed as well as copies of both texts. Points will be deducted if work is not submitted by the deadline. You should be prepared to discuss the summer reading on the first day of class. Please note that there will be tests on the readings in the first two weeks of school.

### ***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (English 10 and English 10 Honors)**

Choose *one* of the themes below and write a 1-2 page essay (meaning *at least* one page but *no more than* two) that addresses the following prompt. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the novel to support your response.

Fill in the blank with one of the themes below:

What is Steinbeck trying to say about \_\_\_\_\_ in *Of Mice and Men*?

Discuss the lives of at least **3** characters in relation to *one* of the themes below.

#### **Choices of themes:**

social injustice/inhumanity

loneliness/isolation

fulfilling the dream

friendship and loyalty

#### **Sample thesis statement:**

In the novel *Of Mice and Men*, the weak are abused by the strong and humanity suffers because of it.

### ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (English 10 ONLY)**

Consider the following prompt and write a 1-2 page essay (meaning *at least* one page but *no more than* two) that answers the following prompt thoroughly. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the play to support your response.

Explore and discuss the title of the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Symbolically, each character thinks of his/herself as ‘a raisin in the sun.’ Pick *three* characters and explain how the title relates to their dreams and what becomes of them. (Hint: Think about the poem "A Dream Deferred.") Choose from: Lena, Ruth, Walter Lee, Beneatha, Joseph Asagai, George Murchison, Karl Lindner.

***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (English 10 Honors ONLY)**

Consider the following prompt and write a 1-2 page essay (meaning *at least* one page but *no more than* two) that answers the prompt thoroughly. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the play to support your response.

Preserving one’s reputation is a prevalent theme in *The Crucible*. Examine two characters who are concerned with their reputations. How does this affect how they act? How are their situations similar or different? Is a good name more important than the truth?

**Caution:** Students are not to use internet study guides or print study guides (such as CliffNotes and Sparknotes) to answer any of these prompts. To do so is considered a violation of the honor code. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero and a referral to the Honor Committee.