

Summer Assignments for English 10AA

Reminder: “Optional” student in-service, to discuss readings and assignments, on WED AUGUST 11, 10 - 11 a.m. in the Arts & Science building. All assignments are due on the first day of school. Expect an additional evaluation in class.

Reading Requirement:

[note: books can be purchased used or new and are available through the library system]

1. read Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (a novel)
2. read The Color of Water by James McBride (a memoir)
3. read “The Crucible” by Arthur Miller (a play)

Textbook Requirement:

[note: you can purchase this online for various prices or through local bookstores or the publisher:

www.bedfordstmartins.com]

1. purchase “A Writer’s Reference” (any edition would be acceptable) Bedford/St. Martin’s Press; written by Diana Hacker

Writing Requirements:

1. Regarding *Of Mice and Men*

Apply, as prewriting, the acronym TPCASTT—a pre-AP strategy to the novel. You will use your prewriting for classroom discussion and eventually writing an essay. Explanation:

T-title: Ponder the meaning of the title without reference to the work—prior to reading, make any predictions.

P-paraphrase: Translate the story in your own words. This is a surface level understanding.

C-connotation: Look for deeper meaning by searching for devices in the work, including:

- Diction
- Imagery
- Metaphors and similes
- Mood
- Allusions
- Punctuation
- Personification
- Symbolism
- Irony
- Paradox

A-attitude: Look for the author’s tone via the use of words. How is the writer speaking to

the reader about a particular subject or idea?
S-shifts: Look for shifts in tone, action, or style. Discuss how the shift(s) affects the writing and its meaning.

T-title: Examine the title again, this time on an *interpretive* level. Note new insights.

T-theme: What does the writing mean? What is it saying? How does it relate to life?

2. Regarding *The Color of Water*:

In *The Color of Water*, James McBride and his siblings never really know their true identity and often feel as if something is missing from their lives.

Discuss the issue of identity and whether it is important to know your parents' backgrounds and childhood information. If you feel you know your parent or parents well, then explain how this knowledge has evolved. How important is this knowledge? What must be overcome when the knowledge is unavailable? What can help to bring about a sense of peace?

Respond in a clear essay, with a beginning, middle and ending. Whenever appropriate, address examples from *The Color of Water* and the McBride siblings' struggles with identity. Be sure to cite passages using MLA format. Be sure to turn in your prewriting and corrected draft with the final copy.

[For specific assistance, use Diana Hacker's *A WRITER'S REFERENCE* to help you follow the prompt directions carefully and correctly]

3. Regarding *The Crucible*

Read the play, noting any worthwhile aspects of the story and drama techniques used. Also, take notes on key ideas from the play—particularly on the “allegorical” aspects, characters, or themes developed through situations. Then, go online or find a book of criticism and browse information about the play. Prepare to discuss this play and its historical connections.

Incorporating SPARKS, CLIFF NOTES or other study aids is PLAGIARISM and will result in a “0” as your grade.