

World Literature Pre-Course Reading
Mrs. Wickenheiser Room 267

Welcome to World Literature! I look forward to exploring a range of diverse texts and a variety of perspectives from around the world with you. Our journey will take us through time and across continents in order to uncover the themes that connect us and our shared human experience.

The pre-course required reading is the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Students can purchase their own copy of the play or sign one out from the English department. See Mrs. Wickenheiser or Mrs. Lewis.

This text, as well as the assignment outlined below, must be completed by the first day of class. Our coursework immediately begins by using this modern American work to make connections with other ancient and modern African texts. As evidence of reading and engagement, you will complete a **Reader's Journal** that chronicles your thinking over the course of the play and prepares you for our coursework on day one.

The Reader's Journal for *A Raisin in the Sun*

Assignment Description: A Reader's Journal is a series of written entries capturing a reader's experience over the course of a literary work.

The aim of your **Reader's Journal** is for you to interact with *A Raisin in the Sun* and record your thinking while reading the play. In keeping this journal, you are engaging in reader-response criticism, a valuable literary perspective in reading and responding to literature. Remember, your **Reader's Journal** is not simply a noting of characters, plot, symbolism, etc. Instead, it is your *response* to these elements working together and the effect they have on you, the reader.

Assignment Expectations and Requirements: Your Reader's Journal should meet the following requirements in addition to those outlined in the [rubric](#).

- **Length:** three typed pages that reflect thoughtful answers to response questions
- **Format:** typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times/ Times New Roman font with adherence to MLA guidelines ([reminders here](#))
- **Point of View:** 1st Person

- **Audience:** English Teacher- tone and diction therefore must be appropriate for academic audiences
- **Citations:** Directly cited text from the play with parenthetical citations

Reader’s Journal Response Questions: You will respond after each act (total of three acts). See prompts below:

Act I: What are your initial responses to the characters?

Act II: What big ideas are being developed through Act II?

Act III: Have your initial impressions of the characters changed? Why? How is the ending of the play complex?

After reading: What passages/ quotes were you most drawn to and why? Did you have any points of confusion whilst reading?

Helpful Hints: If you are having trouble beginning your sentences, consider these “thought starters.”

I noticed . . .

I wonder . . .

I was reminded of . . .

I think . . .

I’m surprised that . . .

I’d like to know . . .

I realized . . .

If I were . . .

Although it seems . . .

Source for “thought starters.” Donna Santman/ Kelly Gallagher

Please go to the next two pages for the rubric.

World Literature Journal Rubric

Name:

Complete Incomplete Late

36-40

Journal addresses reader-response questions to an exemplary level. Responses are thoughtful and engaging and note specific textual passages. Journal demonstrates strong author voice, attention to diction and style, adherence to MLA format, and has very few proofreading or grammatical errors.

32-35

Journal addresses reader-response questions to a level not quite as polished as the best papers. Journal demonstrates author's voice, skill in diction and sense of style, adherence to MLA format, and has few proofreading or grammatical errors.

28-31

Journal attempts most of the reader-response questions to an adequate level. Responses are more superficial. Journal is clearly written, adheres to MLA format, and may have some proofreading or grammatical errors that do not interfere with the meaning of the text.

24-27

Journal is present and addresses few of the reader-response questions. Author uses plot summary with little evaluation of the text. Grammatical/ proofreading errors detract from the meaning of the text.

0-23

Journal is present, however it

1. Primarily provides plot/character summary
2. Is poorly written

Journal may be one or more of the following: incomplete, late, off prompt, lacking in MLA format, lacking in adherence to grammatical/proofreading norms, or containing inappropriate language/ content.

Go to next page . . .

MLA Format:

Typed, one-inch margins, 12 point Times or Times New Roman font, double spaced, parenthetical citations, and **Works Cited notation for *A Raisin in the Sun***. Be prepared to turn this in on the first day of class. You should write three pages (no more or less). This is a journal of your thoughts, not someone else's.

Header – first page only:

Your name

Name of instructor

EN 1483

Date (example format: 17 January 2023)