

## 2017 Honors English I Summer Reading Assignment

Honors English I is the more advanced English course offered to ninth grade students. In preparation, aspiring honors students are expected to complete a more extensive assignment over the summer than those entering the regular English I course.

### **1. Read *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson and Cecil Murphey**

Keep a reading journal (in a composition book or spiral notebook) summarizing each chapter as you read. There will be a test on this autobiography during the first week of school. Your reading journal will be a very important part of your preparation for this test.

**2. Write a 2-3 page "book review" of *Gifted Hands*.** Your review should include an introduction (provides the title, author, and ends with a **thesis statement**, or topic sentence, for the paper); a summary of the book; and a conclusion section that evaluates the quality of the book and its impact on the reader.

Essays should be typed, double spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font, with proper MLA heading in the top left corner:

First and Last Name

Instructor Name

Honors English I

11 August 2017

This paper is due to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) (see instructions at the end of this document) by **11:59 pm on the first day of school (August 10<sup>th</sup>)**. **Emailed submissions will not be accepted.** As is always the case, you should ensure that this is your *own original work* and that nothing is plagiarized from the Internet or other sources.

**In addition to the above assignments**, students entering Honors English I must complete the following assignment, which will be submitted by the second day of school. This assignment is meant to prepare you for the kind of reading and writing that will be expected of an Honors English I student. When critical readers read a text, they are interested in more than simply the plot. You are expected to engage in critical thinking about a text, and you should be able to devop that thinking into a well-written analytical essay.

### **COMPLETION OF THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN HONORS ENGLISH I:**

#### **3. Read *A Raisin in the Sun*\* by Lorraine Hansberry**

\*This is a play and to enhance your understanding of the work you may choose to watch a production of it that you find online or through the library; however, you will also need to read through the play in order to successfully complete this assignment.

**PART 1: Evidence Collection-** One of the most important skills that you will develop throughout your high school career is the practice of collecting evidence from a text to support your claims. As you *read A Raisin in the Sun*, you will collect evidence that helps you track the development of each of the four major characters, focusing especially on each of their dreams for the future. For each of the main characters (Mama, Walter, Bennie, and Ruth), collect at least FIVE examples of textual evidence (quotes) that tell something about the character (personality) AND/OR that character's dreams for the future. You will then write 2-3 sentences of analysis of that evidence, explaining exactly what it tells the

reader. The best way to complete this is to set aside a page for each character and fill in the charts as you read. In the end, you should have 20+ quotes, total, each with a couple of sentences of analysis. Below is an example of one character's chart, with only the first quote filled in. **This work must be handwritten will be turned in on the second day of school.**

**WALTER**

<b>Act: scene</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Analysis of character and his/her dream</b>
I:i p.9 - HEATH ER, CHECK	WALTER (frowning impatiently) Don't call it that. See there, that just goes to show you what women understand about the world. Baby, don't nothing happen for you in this world 'less you pay somebody off!	Hansberry illustrates two key personality traits in Walter: his bigotry towards women (that just goes to show you what women understand about the world) and his belief that money is the key to achieving his dreams (don't nothing happen for you in this world 'less you pay somebody off!). Walter does not believe that he can achieve his dreams through hard work; rather, his dreams are commodities which need to be bought (not earned), and he is frustrated that his wife doesn't see it his way.

**PART 2: Essay-** Now that you have collected substantial evidence to deepen your understanding of these characters and their dreams, you are ready to write a multi-paragraph essay.

**DIRECTIONS:** According to your analysis of a major character in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, in what ways does one's personality drive one's dreams? To write this essay, make sure you do the following:

- Choose ONE major character (Walter, Mama, Bennie, or Ruth).
- Write a short introduction with a clear thesis (topic sentence that restates the above prompt), TWO supporting paragraphs, and a brief conclusion.
- Each supporting paragraph should include at least TWO pieces of textual evidence (quotes), properly cited. USE EVIDENCE YOU ALREADY COLLECTED IN PART 1.
- Include developed analysis of each piece of evidence, keeping your focus on answering the question.

Your grade will be based on the quality of:

1. Your focused answer to the question
2. Your selected evidence to support your claims
3. Your analysis of that evidence
4. Your writing mechanics and attention to detail

This essay should follow MLA format as described in the book review assignment.

**SUBMISSION: Completed charts from Part I are due in class on the first day of school, August 10, 2017. The essay for Part II is due to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) by 11:59 pm on August 10, 2017. EMAILED SUBMISSION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Work must be turned in to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) to earn credit.**

**STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT ALL PARTS OF THIS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT BY THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE WILL BE MOVED TO A REGULAR ENGLISH CLASS.**

**Turnitin.com Instructions:**

Returning TKA students- log in with existing [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) account information and use the dropdown box to find the name "Bardin" to join the Honors English I class, and submit the assignment(s).

New TKA students- go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and follow the prompts to create a personal account (if a school email address has been assigned to you, please use it for your log-in). You will use this account to submit work throughout the school year, so be sure to write down your username and password so that you do not have trouble accessing your account.

The class code for Honors English I is 12530919; password is Englishrocks.

If you have any questions, you can email [n.stack@tka.net](mailto:n.stack@tka.net).

Happy reading and writing!