

## Hillgrove High School English Department

### AP Literature Pre-Course Reading 2017-2018

To help establish the necessary foundations and facilitate initial classroom instruction for both honors and AP level classes, each student is required to complete a pre-course reading assignment prior to the start of their English class next year. This reading requirement is different than traditional summer reading in that the text(s) will be an integral part of the semester curriculum, specifically the first unit of study. There will be multiple graded assignments based on the assigned pre-course reading rather than one stand-alone assessment of your reading. **It is imperative that students have a copy of the required text the FIRST week of the semester.** Teachers will provide more information regarding curriculum implementation of these texts at the start of the class.

#### **Reading Assignments**

*Read the assigned text(s) for the AP Literature course you are taking in the 2017-2018 school year before the start of the semester. Additional assignments and/or guidance for your reading are provided on the following pages.*

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade AP Literature**

*Death of a Salesman* Arthur Miller

Students are to do the following:

- Read the background to the text,
- Complete Acts 1, 2, and Requiem questions as you read the text,
- Turn in typed responses to seven of the 10 general review questions.

\*\*See the pages that follow for the assignments referenced above.

\*\*Assignment is due the first week of class.

***Death of a Salesman – Act 1 Review***

1. General review questions:
  - a. “Miller redefines the nature of tragedy in our modern period of democracy and belief in the significance of \_\_\_\_\_people.”
  - b. “Willy is flawed,” but Miller “links Willy’s defects with the quest for\_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Willy’s central illusion is the .....
  
2. Identify and explain 5 key symbols presented thus far. Remember, a symbol can a thing, person, action, etc.
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  - b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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  - d.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e.
  
3. Identify the speaker, to whom he/she is speaking, and the significance of each of the following quotes:
  - a. “Where are you guys, where are you? The woods are burning!”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. “Stop making excuses for him. He always wiped the floor with you. Never had an ounce of respect for you.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. “Biff, his life is in your hands.”



### ***Death of a Salesman-Act 2 and Requiem Review***

1. Identify the speaker and the significance of the following quote: “You can’t eat the orange and throw away the peel – a man is not a piece of fruit.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When Willy sees Bernard in Charley’s office, he asks, “What is the secret?” What secret is he asking about? Does such a secret exist?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Identify the speaker and the significance of the following quotes:  
“Miss Forsythe, you’ve just seen a prince walk by. A fine, troubled prince. A hard-working, unappreciated prince....”  
“ No, he’s not my father. He’s just a guy.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. After Willy is fired by Howard, Bernard says, “that sometimes it is best to walk away.” Willy replies, “But if you can’t walk away”? What is Willy suggesting? Does he have any options? If so, will he take them? Explain
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In Act 2 Willy buys seeds and tries to plant a garden at night. Why is Willy so disturbed that “nothing’s planted” and “I don’t have a thing in the ground.” What do this garden and having “things in the ground” mean to Willy?

6. Find and explain a quote that you feel indicates the central turning point in Act 2.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What are the multiple implications of Linda's last line of the play – "We're free....we're free"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In the Requiem, Biff states that Willy's dreams were illusory; "He had all the wrong dreams. All wrong." Happy states, "He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have – to come out number-one-man." Evaluate the truth and validity of either of these statements.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Explain the symbolism of each of the following: tape recorder, Dave Singleman, fountain pen, diamonds.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Does his suicide make him a coward, a martyr, or a victim of society? Explain.

## General Review Questions

Using a C.E.I. analysis format, give a detailed response to 7 of the following questions. Be sure to give sufficient and salient supporting details (see rubric) in order to substantiate your assertions. As well, part of the overall evaluation of your responses will be grammar, mechanics, MLA format, etc.

1. How is Willy's suicide foreshadowed throughout the play? To what extent does this foreshadowing create tension among the characters and in the audience?
2. Other than Willy, identify a central character who is symbolic and explain what he/she may symbolize and how connected to Willy and the meaning of the work as a whole
3. Describe the character of Willy Loman. What are his good qualities? In what way(s) does he have a heroic stature? What are his bad qualities? To what extent is his "fall" the result of his flaws, and to what extent is it caused by circumstances beyond his control?
4. How is the relationship between Charley and Bernard different from the one between Willy and his sons? How do Charley/Bernard function as foils? Why is this difference important, particularly in the way they are perceived by Willy and Biff?
5. Discuss Linda's character and role? In what ways is she supportive of Willy? In what ways does she encourage his deceptions and self-delusions?
6. What sort of person is Happy? What has he inherited from Willy? How is he a debasement of Willy? To what degree is he successful or happy? What are his prospects?
7. Willy claims that success in business is based not on "what you do" but on "who you know and the smile on your face? Its contacts....a man can end up with diamonds on the basis of being well liked." How does the play support or reject this assertion?
8. Most of Willy's memories - Ben's visit, Boston, the football game-are from 1928. Why does Willy's memory return to 1928? Why is the contrast between 1928 and the present significant for Willy and for the play as a whole.
9. Along with the house and the encroachment of the neighborhood, 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?
10. What are the central reasons for Willy's suicide at the end of the play? Does his suicide make him a coward, a martyr, or a victim of society? Explain.

### *Death of a Salesman* response rubric

10=Superior: original insights / interpretation; 2-3 salient supporting details; effective C.E.I. format; no major grammatical/MLA errors

9=Excellent: original insights/interpretation, but not as developed as a score of 9; 2 salient supporting details; effective C.E.I format; minor errors in either grammar, MLA format.

8=above average insights/interpretation; 2 supporting details, but may have been more appropriate evidence for analysis; C.E.I. may need some polishing; may/may not have minor/major errors with grammar, MLA format, etc.

7=average insights/interpretation; 1 supporting detail; C.E.I. format may need revision to be effective; major/minor errors in grammar/MLA format

6=below average responses that have references to text but lack direct supporting details; poor organization; may have multiple minor/major errors in format, grammar, MLA format

5=poor responses with no support, poor organization, etc.

4=responses not relevant to question, poor organization, etc.

\*1/4 point deduction for errors in tense, point of view, MLA format, and grammar/mechanics