

**\*Summer Reading for Incoming pre-IB/AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION/GRADES 10 & 11 (incoming sophomores and juniors)**

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, 2016. No late papers are accepted.

We are entering the realm of RHETORIC, and what better vehicle to study for effective rhetorical devices than drama?

We will focus on two American playwrights (since American literature is the focus of AP English Language study), Eugene O'Neill and Thornton Wilder.

\*Read the biographies of these two playwrights and write (using MLA standards) a reaction paper for each author's biography. Each reaction paper will address the author's early life and career in the first paragraph and the author's death and legacy (his ongoing impact on even today's society and theater) in the second paragraph. The length of each reaction paper should be 200-400 words.

\*Then, read Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* on this website:

[centralschools.org/~shs/OWour\\_town.pdf](http://centralschools.org/~shs/OWour_town.pdf). Take notes about the characters and their actions and words as you read the play.

\*Procure a copy of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Suggestion: Amazon.com has over two hundred copies of the play with a beginning price of \$.56—that's fifty-six cents! You pay for shipping, but the price is right. Please annotate the play as you read it, highlighting characters' diction and the action of the play.

√Write a paper of 500-800 words that answers the following prompt:

In a well-organized essay (following MLA standards) argue and support your claim regarding which play is more relevant and more reflective of today's society and family structure. *Our Town* reflects the basic standards of living and addresses those elements that repeat through the centuries: birth, education, marriage, children, and death. *Long Day's Journey into Night* enters into those elements of life that Eugene O'Neill experienced in a dysfunctional family unit: addiction, lassitude, despair, and grief. Again, which play reflects today's family structure in a more relevant manner? USE EXCERPTS/QUOTATIONS FROM THE PLAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CLAIM. \*YOU MAY ALSO USE OUTSIDE SOURCES LIKE STATISTICS, SOCIOLOGICAL ESSAYS, REVIEWS OF THE PLAYS—LIKE SPARKNOTES—OR ANY OTHER SOURCE WHICH WILL ADD SUPPORT TO YOUR CLAIM, BUT, PLEASE, REMEMBER TO DOCUMENT THESE SOURCES AND PROVIDE A WORKS CITED PAGE AT THE END OF YOUR PAPER.

**Florida Standards:**

LAFS.910.RL.1.2: Determine central idea . . .

LAFS.910.RL.1.1: Cite strong and thorough text evidence . . .

LAFS.910.RL.1.3: Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text...

LAFS.910.W.1.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning/sufficient evidence

LAFS.910.W.2.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task . .