

**BURRILLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2011
11 HONORS – MR. GOUDREAU**

PART I: TWENTIETH CENTURY DRAMA

Choose one of the following plays. Then complete the assignment below.

All My Sons – Arthur Miller

The story tells of partners in a defective machine shop during World War II. Keller escapes punishment for the faulty parts. Herbert Deever is sent to prison. Keller's son Chris intends to marry his deceased brother's love who happens to be Herbert Deever's daughter Anne. Keller's wife Kate is in denial of their son Larry's death. This denial makes her a trademark of Miller's works, an annoying female character. She is overbearing and at times a nag. Thus, conflict is created over Chris and Anne's relationship. The story reaches its climax when the true nature of Larry's death is revealed. While the conclusion is not shocking, it is a fitting end.

OR

A Streetcar Named Desire – Eugene O'Neill

It is a very short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared—57 years after its Broadway premiere, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. Blanche DuBois arrives at her sister Stella's New Orleans apartment seeking refuge from a troubled past but her ethereal spirit irks Stella's husband, the loutish Stanley Kowalski. Crudely, relentlessly, he unmasks the lies and delusions that sustain Blanche, until her frail hold on reality is shockingly severed.

Assignment: Critical Essay

Write a **5 page critical essay** in which you analyze and interpret the **theme(s)** of the play. Explain how the author uses literary elements and dramatic techniques (e.g., characters, plot, setting, dialogue, lighting, music, costumes, etc.) to develop and reinforce the theme(s). Use quotations from the play as evidence to support your ideas. Your essay should be **typed using MLA format** and submitted via e-mail by the deadline. **(Be sure to type your name in the email text.)**

PART II: LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY NOVEL

Read one of the following novels. Then complete the assignment described below:

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou

Superbly told, with the poet's gift for language and observation, this story is Angelou's autobiography of her childhood in Arkansas. In the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series, one of the most inspiring authors of our time recalls--with candor, humor, poignancy and grace--how her journey began....

OR

Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri

An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along a first-generation path strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.

Assignment: Journal/Diary

Create a journal or diary of the main character. Include what events happened to the character (plot) and how the character reacted to those events. Also include the character's inner thoughts (character) about life and adapting to difficult situations that s/he faced (theme). Be creative with the presentation of the journal or diary. Add pictures that show the main ideas or feelings of the character, but do not have more pictures than writing. **Journal/Diary should have a minimum of twenty-five entries** and submitted via e-mail by the deadline.

PART III: EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY NOVEL

Read one of the following novels. Then complete the assignment described below:

Cannery Row – John Steinbeck

Drawing characters based on his memories of real inhabitants of Monterey, CA, Steinbeck interweaves the stories of Doc, Henri, Mack, and his boys, in a world where only the fittest survive, in a novel that focuses on the acceptance of life as it is--a story at once humorous and poignant. *Cannery Row* presents a slice of the lives of the men and women who populate a strip of sardine canneries after the workers go home. Set on California's Monterey Peninsula in the days long before famed golf courses and resorts, this post-depression tale depicts of the life of an uproarious cast of characters.

OR

The Sun Also Rises – Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway's first bestselling novel, it is the story of a group of 'Lost Generation' Americans and Brits in the 1920s on a sojourn from Paris to Pamploma, Spain. The novel poignantly details their life as expatriates on Paris' Left Bank, and conveys the brutality of bullfighting in Spain. The novel established Hemingway as one of the great prose stylists of all time.

Assignment: Double Entry Journal and Essay

Read *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway or *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck. Keep a **double-entry journal** based on your reading. Choose significant and substantial excerpts that are critical to meaning of the work, the author's writing style, and/or the literary elements (e.g., character, plot, setting, theme, symbols, etc.). You must include a **minimum of one excerpt for each chapter in the novel**. In a double-entry journal, you fold or divide your page in half, quote the author's words on the left side of the page, and then write your interpretation and response on the right side of the page. Basically you paraphrase, explain, and analyze the author's language to increase your own comprehension. **Journals should be handwritten in two columns and single-spaced.**

During the first week of school, you will be asked to complete an in-class assessment on the novel that you read. Your double-entry journal will be your prewriting and reference material. You will be allowed to use the journal during the assessment.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	GRADING
Critical Essay	Friday, July 15	1/3 of summer reading
Journal/Diary	Friday, August 12	1/3 of summer reading
Reading Log/Assessment	Friday, September 2	1/3 of summer reading

Any assignment handed in after the deadline will not receive a grade higher than a 60!

SEND SUBMISSIONS AND QUESTIONS TO: goudreaur@bsd-ri.net

All texts are available at www.bn.com or www.amazon.com

LITERATURE IS LIFE – WHAT'S YOUR STORY?