



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School
for Health Sciences and Engineering
11th Grade Summer Reading
2017-2018

All-school Summer Reading

The faculty of MLK is excited to re-institute an all-school summer reading book to promote community and the goals of lifelong learning we, as teachers and staff, seek to instill in you, our reason for being here.

Many of you have heard or seen a recent film called *Hidden Figures*. This movie was based on a book that we have chosen for every student and faculty member to read. Our goal is to create opportunities for all members of our community to discuss the important issues addressed in *Hidden Figures* and have experiences with other students in other classes and grade levels to enrich these experiences. When we return to school, we hope to have some classroom and out-of-class activities during which all students will get to learn more about math, science, history, and many other topics addressed in *Hidden Figures*.

To that end, please carefully read *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly before the first day of school. While there is not a required summer written assignment, you will be expected to know key details from this informational text and will be tested at the start of the school year. Various classes will explore the book in different ways, including through projects, writing assignments, and class discussions. Your thorough reading of the book will be expected and will enhance your participation in these assignments. Upon your return to school in August, please bring your own copy of the text with you for the first several weeks.

11th Grade Summer Reading

All 11th Graders, whether enrolled in Honors English III or Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, are required to read two plays in addition to *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition: Fences* by August Wilson and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.

Fences by August Wilson

Set in 1957, *Fences* is the story of Troy Maxson, an African American garbage collector, ex-convict, and former baseball player in the Negro League. Learning to survive in a world where racism and classism have hindered his pursuit of the American Dream, Troy is uneasy with the spirit of change faintly recognizable at the end of the 1950's and that would characterize the 1960's.

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Death of a Salesman is the story of Willy Loman, an aging salesman who has spent his life in pursuit of the American Dream. As Willy comes to the end of his career, he and the members of his family realize just how difficult—and perhaps futile—the pursuit of this American myth may be.

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the study of the summer reading plays. You should bring your own copy of each play with you when you report to school. (If this proves to be problematic for you and your family, see your teacher at the beginning of school.) Because you will be required to create meaning from what you read, you are expected to be an active reader. That means you should take notes (highlighting or underlining important parts, writing notes in the margins or on the front and end covers) on the plays as you read to help you remember important parts.

Some things to take notes on as you read:

- Compare the use of setting in each play. How does setting affect plot, characterization, and theme?
- Describe the characters, both primary and secondary.
- Note the primary conflicts in each play and how they are resolved
- Symbolism
- Define the American Dream. How does each protagonist pursue it? What are the consequences?
- The tension between generations that can occur when each generation values different ideals, dreams, or goals

Again, you are expected to be an active and engaged reader of the books. While you are not required to complete a writing assignment on the reading over the summer, you are responsible for the reading and creating meaning from it. Testing on the books will begin the second day of school. Bring copies of the books with you when you report to school.