



## **SOPHOMORE ENGLISH: AMERICAN LITERATURE 2023**

### **Honors American Literature: *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Age of Miracles***

### **College Preparatory American Literature: *A Raisin in the Sun***

***The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker:** “It’s never the disasters you see coming that finally come to pass--it’s the ones you don’t expect at all.” This is not a typical coming-of-age novel.

***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck:** Published in 1939, Steinbeck’s novel chronicles the plight of one family in the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression.

***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry:** Considered one of the finest plays written, *Raisin* is about an African-American family in post-war Chicago.

**Honors:** As you complete your summer reading, write notes on **post-it notes**. You will attach the post-it notes to the appropriate pages. **Remember, copying notes from SparkNotes or similar sources is plagiarism.** As characters are introduced, include descriptions of them. If you encounter unfamiliar words, jot them down on your post-its and look them up later. Include **questions** you might have about what is happening. **Your books with the post-it notes inside must be turned in on the first day of school.** Expect a quiz over summer reading when we return. Good personal reading notes will be valuable as you prepare for this quiz. Additionally, plan to use your notes for discussion and any other assignments attached to the reading. \*How many notes are enough? For ***Grapes***, consider three post-its per chapter (more if you wish). For ***Age***, consider one post-it per chapter.

**The following assignments are also due on our first day of school for Honors American Literature:**

After you finish reading the novel, **view the 1940 film, directed by John Ford and starring Henry Fonda. Take notes as you watch. Answer these questions:**

How does the film differ from the novel? Is the film an effective adaptation? How do you feel about the casting choices? \*Expect the summer reading quiz to address the film.

Visit the Museum of Modern Art website for an amazing virtual exhibit on photographer Dorothea Lange. Lange's photography during the Great Depression captured the era. Watch slideshows, interviews, and films. You need to write down ten sentences about your observations. Be very specific. The ten observations can be about any of the features in this exhibit.

Link: <https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5079>

**College Prep:** For *Raisin in the Sun*, write down your own notes about characters and plot; consider one post-it note for every two pages. Place the post-its on the appropriate pages. You can also write down questions you have about what is happening, or about the words used. Next, visit the Guthrie Theater website (link below). *Raisin* was performed there last summer. Use the website to answer these questions:

1. What are "three things to know"?
2. Under "Creative Team," click on playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Write down three important facts about Ms. Hansberry.
3. Watch the video, "Cast Conversations." What do you learn from the director, Austere Van? What do you learn from Anita Welch? What do you learn from James Alfred?

<https://www.guthrietheater.org/shows-and-tickets/2021-2022-season/a-raisin-in-the-sun/>