

# 11th Grade Summer Reading

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

Directions:

- For part 1, you are provided 6 questions/prompts, and you will need to **CHOOSE 2** and complete them using whichever books you want. **(One page minimum for each.)**
- For part 2, you are provided 2 questions/prompts, and you will need to **complete BOTH** using the specific novel provided. **(One page minimum for each.)**
- For part 3, you have 10 questions; you need to **answer the 10 questions for BOTH books**. The length for this will vary according to the question; so just do what each question asks.

## Part 1

Choose **TWO** of the following six prompts to complete; you can use either and/or both of your 11th grade summer reading books. **(One page minimum for each response):**

1. In the novel that you've read, some of the characters are given positive portrayals. Others have negative portrayals. Still, others may begin with negative qualities and gradually become more and more positive. Rarely does an author rely on the reader's personal sense of morality to determine which characters are positive and which are negative. Instead, there are details, actions, and characteristics that help define who is "good" and who is "bad." Think about your novel. How does the author indicate which characters are positive and which are negative? In your essay, explain how the author uses direct and indirect characterization to develop these portrayals.
2. Do a close examination of the setting in your novel. What are the primary locations? How are these places made realistic — how does the author use extended description, background information, and specific detail to make the setting come alive for readers? How do the main characters fit in the settings — do they seem at home? out of place? How do their reactions and interactions with the setting affect the realism of the

locations? Discuss the way that the novelist uses to make the setting vivid and real to readers.

3. Identify one theme in the novel and show how it appears in three separate instances in the novel. Make sure to discuss why this theme is important to the overall novel.
4. Find one instance in the novel that contains both a literal and symbolic meaning. This means that there is a deeper meaning to an event that occurs in the novel. You could also consider an object that serves as a symbol in the novel. Support your answer with textual evidence from the novel.
5. Think about the role that social class plays in the novel that you've read. What social classes are represented in the novel? How do the classes shown in the novel relate to the classes that realistically existed in the time and place where the novel takes place? Write a paper that explores the way that social class and class issues affect the characters and plot of your novel.
6. How reliable is the narrator of your novel? Is the reader able to fully trust him/her? Why or why not? Support your answer with three specific and relevant details from the novel.

## Part 2

**You need to complete BOTH of the following questions/prompts for the specified novel. (One page minimum for each response.)**

1. *The Things They Carried* - How does the title of the novel that you've read relate to the novel itself? Is the title descriptive? somewhat of a moral for the novel? a statement of the theme? something else altogether? Why has the writer chosen this title over other possibilities? In your paper, analyze the relationship between title and novel, paying attention to the reasons that the title highlights something that the author wants readers to know or come to understand about the novel.
2. *A Raisin in the Sun* - Take a look at the characters in the novel that you've read. Each of the main characters in the novel is introduced to you with certain dreams, plans, and expectations. In the course of the play, these main characters must come to terms with the difference between their dreams and the reality of the world around them. How do the main characters navigate the journey from dreams to reality? — What kind of course do they follow, and how are they changed for their journey?

### Part 3

Complete the following 10 questions for **BOTH** of your books:

1. Identify the **narrator** of the story, the **point of view**, and the narrator's and author's **tone** presented in the novel.
2. Keep track of **theme(s)** as they emerge and your reactions to them.
3. Take notes on the **setting** (including culture) and how it affects or influenced the characters and the evolution of the plot.
4. Note the **structure** of the novel. Is it linear or nonlinear (uses flashbacks)? How does that contribute to the novel?
5. Note interesting or unusual **diction** (word choice). How does that contribute to the meaning of the novel?
6. Note 5 instances of **figurative language** (metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole) used throughout the novel and explain how it contributes to the meaning.
7. What **imagery** is used in the novel and when (give 3 examples from the text)? What purpose does this serve?
8. Write down 10 **vocabulary** words from throughout the novel you come across and define them.
9. Write three (3) **quotes** from the text that you found interesting or made you think. Write a paragraph on each explaining why you found these important? Do they remind you of something in your own life or another book you've read? What made them stand out? How are they important to the novel as a whole?
10. Write a paragraph responding to the novel. Did you like the book? Why? Why not? What parts of the novel were the most troublesome? What parts did you enjoy? Would you read more novels about this topic? By this author? Why?