

THE WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Name: _____ Mr. Rodriguez – 11th Grade English
Summer 2013 E5 – E6 Reading Assignment

Dear 11th Grade Parent/Guardian,

Hello, I am Mr. Rodriguez and I am looking forward to being your child's 11th grade American Literature teacher. Your child will be analyzing literature and writing extensively, so it is vital that I assess their skills as soon as possible. Below you will find the instructions for the summer reading and writing assignment. If at any point during the summer you have any issues, please email me at andrer373@yahoo.com or rodriguez@whsad.org.

Directions: Below you will find a copy of your summer reading/writing assignment. **It is mandatory that you read both books.** After reading both books in completion, you will write a **6-paragraph Critical Lens Essay** (Part 4 of the ELA Regents) which you will submit to me the first day of class in September.

Step 1: Obtain a copy of each of the mandatory summer reading books below.

- Push by Sapphire
- The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Step 2: Read both books in absolute completion.

Step 3: Write a Critical Lens Essay (refer to back side for full instructions →).

Step 4: Bring your completed essay on the first day of school, either typed or written legibly.

Thank you,
Mr. Rodriguez

Gill Cornell Principal
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Part 4

Your task:

Write a critical essay in which you discuss *two* works of literature (**Push by Sapphire and The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison**) you have read from the particular perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the **Critical Lens**. In your essay, provide a valid interpretation of the statement, agree *or* disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and support your opinion using specific references to appropriate literary elements from the two works.

Critical Lens:

“...although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.”

-Helen Keller
Optimism, 1903

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Provide a valid interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis.
- Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it.
- Choose two works (**Push by Sapphire and The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison**) you have read that you believe best support your opinion.
- Use the criteria suggested by the critical lens to analyze the works you have chosen.
- Avoid plot summary. Instead, use specific references to appropriate literary elements (for example: theme, characterization, setting, point of view) to develop your analysis.
- Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner.
- Specify the titles and authors of the literature you choose.
- Follow the conventions of standard written English.