

CP American Studies English Final Socratic Seminar

In lieu of a final exam, you will engage in a final Socratic seminar and timed writing. **You must type your responses to the three questions below and submit them to turnitin.com by 11:00 p.m. on MONDAY NIGHT in order to participate. In addition, bring a printed copy.** Make sure your answers are well-developed with clear reasoning **and have evidence to support your claims.** The Socratic Seminar will be on TUESDAY.

1. *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry, introduces the audience to the Youngers, an African-American family living in Chicago. Each member of the Younger family has a particular dream; some are achieved and some are not due to personal and social obstacles. Each of these dreams is representative of the American Dream, which asserts that everyone has the opportunity to improve their own lives as well as provide opportunities for the next generation through hard work.

- Answer the following question in a well-reasoned response that cites *A Raisin in the Sun*, historical and/or current events, **and your own personal experiences**.

Does the opportunity to achieve the American Dream exist for everyone? For whom does it not exist? For whom is the American Dream easier to achieve? Explain why.

2. At the end of *A Raisin in the Sun*, **does Walter Lee make the right decision for his family?** Contemplate the following potential effects of his choice:
 - The financial impact on the family
 - Social implications/ getting along with neighbors
 - Wider societal impact/ the Civil Rights Movement
 - Family dynamics within the Younger household

Your argument should be thoroughly developed with convincing reasoning and at least **two** pieces of evidence from the text.

3. This semester you have read three major texts: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. Consider how each text has shaped you into becoming a better student in the following areas:
 - Development of literacy skills (i.e. reading, writing, and analysis)
 - Enrichment of understanding of American history
 - Discussion of how characters, conflicts, themes, etc reflect a commentary on our society

The English department is continuously adapting its reading list to better achieve the goals outlined above. As teachers we also strive to include literature that is interesting to read and discuss but that is also relevant to American culture.

Prompt: Which text should absolutely remain in the 11th grade English curriculum and why? Which text should be removed from the curriculum and why? Provide clear and thorough reasoning to support your arguments. Your response must include specific details about the texts mentioned.