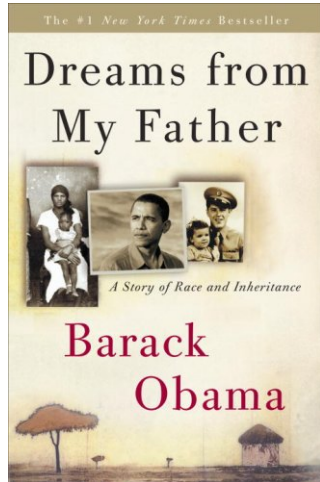


Reading and Writing Assignment for English I (ninth grade) SY 2009-2010



Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Instructor: Ms. Law-Yone

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance

by **Barack Obama (ISBN-10: 1400082773)**

Of Mice and Men by **John Steinbeck
(ISBN: 9780140177398)**

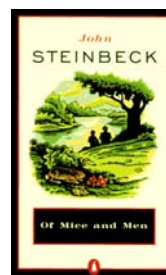
Welcome ninth graders!

All students who are going to attend Duke Ellington School of the Arts have demonstrated a strong desire to study a specific artistic field in our school. In addition to helping you with your artistic endeavors, we want you to become successful academic students as well. To help foster your creative talents and reinforce the necessary skills of critical reading and writing, we expect all incoming ninth graders to participate in our reading and writing assignment over summer vacation.

Your work will be collected on the very first day that you come to school. This is not an optional assignment. AT LEVEL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ BOTH BOOKS AND BE READY TO TAKE A TEST ON BOTH BUT ONLY WRITE ONE ESSAY ON EITHER BOOK. HONORS STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ BOTH BOOKS AND WRITE TWO ESSAYS. Your work will count toward your first Advisory grade (ten percent) and lead to discussions and activities in class. Please read all the directions to this assignment before you begin, to avoid any extra work or confusion.

I look forward to meeting you all and wish you a wonderful summer,

**Ms. Law-Yone
Email msslawyone@yahoo.com**



**Summer Reading
*Of Mice and Men***

By John Steinbeck 1937

Directions: Please purchase the above books (available at all book stores and online for as inexpensive as \$1.00 - \$5.00) as soon as possible.

Having your own copy will enable you to make necessary notes and mark them as you please.

1

1. Your assignment is to read the books during the summer vacation and to imagine how you would represent them by using your chosen field of the ,<; arts. Using the ideas and graphic organizers below, you will organize your thoughts into essay form. This assignment requires HONORS students to arrive with two (one for each book) essays with your notes and graphic organizers attached, and AT LEVEL students with one essay with notes and one graphic organizer attached, on the first day of school. Please bring your copy of the books to class.

As you read, think about these parts of a novel:

- Plot (story)
- Character (main character and others)
- Setting (where and when does the story take place)
- Conflict (the problems in the book)
- Theme (what is the message in the story?),

When you finish the books, think about how you might use your chosen art field to adapt or present **one of the parts** listed above.

Would you: Create a dance that demonstrates... Write a song about... Choose and sing a song that shows... Paint a picture of... Choose an instrumental piece that shows... Write and perform a short play about... Perform a monologue that shows... Make a video showing..

You are not being asked to complete this project, just explain what you would choose to do and how you would go about doing it.

2. Complete the graphic organizers that are attached, one for each book.

3. Using the organizers and the outline, write two essays (for honors students) or one essay (at level students) by responding to the prompts.

Outline for Essay:

Introduction: (1st paragraph)

- ❖ Start with an opening sentence that captures the reader's attention (a question, statement, quote, fact...).
- ❖ In one or two sentences tell the name of the novel, the setting, and the story's concept or theme..
- ❖ Conclude with one or two sentences explaining how you will represent the novel using your art,

Second Paragraph:

- ❖ Write a detailed description of the part of the novel you are choosing to portray (a character? the conflict? the setting? the theme?);

Third Paragraph and Fourth Paragraphs (more if you think it's necessary):

- ❖ Describe the way you would present the part you described in the second paragraph. (This is where you tell exactly what you will do); use details, and try to use the specialized vocabulary for your art. If you would create your own music or a play, explain your vision; if you would sing or play already ; created music, which music would you choose and why? How would you perform the pieces? If you chose drama, would you turn it into a play? Would you create a monologue for the main character? If you would draw or paint, what would it be? How would it look? What feeling would it give the viewer? If you chose media arts, what kind of video would you produce?

Concluding Paragraph:

- ❖ Tell what you hope your audience would get out of your performance or adaptation.

Writing Expectations

- Write as well as you can with minimal spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.
- Make sure your sentences flow from one to the next in a way that makes sense.
- Use details, and if possible, use some of the specialized vocabulary from your arts field
- Use your *own* voice (your way of expressing yourself) as a reader, writer, and artist,-.
- Use **all** your own words. Any copying from the Internet or another source is plagiarism and earns an automatic zero on the assignment.
- If possible, type your essay:
 - ... Use 12 point Times New Roman or Arial (regular, no bold)
 - ... 1 inch margins
 - ... Double line-spacing
 - ... Indent paragraphs with one tab; do not skip lines between paragraphs .
Full name, Grade, and art field in the upper left corner.
Title centered
- If you cannot type, write in your *very neatest* handwriting, cursive or printing.
Indent clearly *or* skip a line between paragraphs; skip a line after the title.
- Paper length (minimum five strong paragraphs, minimum 300 words)

Suggestions

- *Do not wait until August to begin reading and writing*
- *Brainstorm and take notes before writing*
- *Discuss your ideas and share your essay with several people (family and friends); make any recommended changes.*

Student's Name (first and last) Title

and Author of Book

Organizer for Summer Assignment (must be submitted along with essay)

Plot	List the major events of the story:
Setting	Where and when does it occur?:
Characters	List the major and minor characters that are important to the story; add notes about them:
Conflict	What is the main problem that must be resolved? How is it resolved?
Theme	What is the author trying to say about the world or about life?

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