

## Incoming 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Literacy Summer Assignment AP English

### Directions: Mandatory Assignment

Students will write two essays that cover all three of the readings, using the essay options below. If an essay is devoted to two works, the second essay must include the unmentioned work, so long as all 3 have been covered within the two essays. The two essays are to be typed in MLA format and each has a required minimum length of between 1,500-2000 words. All essays are due on the second day of cycle 1 and cycle 2. **Please note that you do not have to complete the grade-level literacy assignment.** Students may email me (laura.mclean@gnbvt.edu) during the summer for feedback.

*Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

*A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

**Option 1:** Physical settings are often much more than passive backdrops. The setting serves as a kind of petri-dish in which a wide range of human concerns are able to be identified and considered. Write an essay in which you explain the significance of setting/time period and the ways in which it contributes to theme in the novel/play. Be sure to provide textual evidence (quotes) in your discussion.

**Option 2:** *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* is a novel of contrasts between what Tess is supposed to be and what she is. Likewise, Blanche Dubois' true self is unveiled in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Explain the nature of these contrasts and how they manifest themselves in the course of the work. Be sure to include textual evidence (quotes) in your essay.

**Option 3:** Considering the story's ending in at least two works, assess how it is justified? How does the principal character come to terms with his/her conflict? What is his/her salvation? Include textual evidence (quotes) in your essay.

**Option 4:** Explain the metaphorical meanings of any two titles. What do they symbolize and how does it relate to plot/theme? Be sure to incorporate textual evidence (quotes) in your essay.

**Option 5:** Discuss the protagonists' irrational behavior. Explain how it adds realism and induces empathy in the reader. Choose a scene or two to discuss in depth and insert excerpts accordingly.