

## IB Theatre -- Summer Work for Rising Juniors

Your assignment over the summer is to read FOUR plays and answer the response questions below for each play. Three of the plays are assigned below, I ask that you read a fourth (non-musical) play of your choosing. The premise of the IB Curriculum is for you to develop your ideas and begin to see the craft of theatre-making through the perspective of a director, performer, designer, and creator. The prescribed questions below encourage you to think from these perspectives. Type your responses in a Google doc and email it to [vremillard@theproutschool.org](mailto:vremillard@theproutschool.org) or submit it to the Google Classroom that I will create at the beginning of your junior year. Your responses to each question should be at least a paragraph long (roughly three sentences) for each play.

### Read the following plays:

1. **A Raisin in the Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry
2. **Death of a Salesman** by Arthur Miller
3. **Harvey** by Mary Chase
4. A play of your choosing that you have not already read for another class

### Answer the following questions for each play:

1. When was the play written or first performed? What was happening historically or socially at the time that may have influenced the writing of the play or the choice to perform it?
2. In your opinion, what was the playwright's intention in writing this play? Provide examples from the play that support your opinion.
3. If you directed this play, how would you want the audience to react to the performance? What would you want them to feel? What, if anything, would you want them to know or see differently in light of their experience watching the play?
4. Identify a specific moment of tension or emotion between one or more characters that contributes significantly to the overall intention of the play.

Identify a moment in the play that you believe requires specific technical or design choices to convey atmosphere or meaning. Technical or design choices include projections, sound, lighting, costumes, props, makeup, and sets. *(For example, Les Miserables is mainly performed on a bare stage until the barricade scene. The barricade is, essentially, a large pile of junk. This, for me, is a visual representation of the chaos and destruction of war and is a contrast to the void that is depicted visually throughout the rest of the play by an empty stage. The barricade creates atmosphere and a visual context while also offering some meaning about the waste of war — waste of lives, waste of time, matter, money, and excessive materialism.)*

**Valerie Remillard**

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