

## 11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

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### Part 1: Learner Portfolio Responses to *A Streetcar Named Desire*

This summer, students entering IB Literature will read and respond to Tennessee Williams' play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Students will choose 3 of the prompts from the list below. The prompts are organized around the seven foundational concepts of the course. Each response should be between 300-400 words and should make reference to the text. These responses will be the beginning of the learner portfolios that students will build over the next two years, and they will be an important part of our discussions during the first unit in the fall. Please be prepared to turn in a hard copy of your responses on the first day of class. All work must be original.

#### **Identity:**

Choose a character whose development over the course of the play interests you. How does that character change? What events spur this growth or decline? Which literary techniques best illustrate this character's development?

#### **Culture:**

What do the portrayals of places like New Orleans and Belle Reve tell us about the American Dream? Which similarities or differences between the two places are most significant? Are these places associated with certain characters or ideas? Which literary techniques best exemplify these similarities or differences?

#### **Creativity:**

Analyze the importance of a creative decision the author has made. What is the impact of this choice on your interpretation of a character, a scene, or the play as a whole?

#### **Communication:**

Examine the role of communication in the play. In what ways does communication or a failure to communicate impact the relationships between characters?

#### **Transformation:**

Choose two characters and examine the ways that their relationship changes over the course of the play. In what ways does the author dramatize these transformations, and what impact do these authorial decisions have on your interpretation?

#### **Perspective:**

Argue whether Blanche is a tragic figure in the end of the play. Which events or information is most important to supporting your perspective on her character? What do you think the author's perspective is on her character? How can you be sure?

#### **Representation:**

Explore the ways in which characters construct reality in the play. What illusions do they hide behind? Which literary techniques best highlight this motif of illusion and reality in the play?

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### Part 2: Free Choice

For this part of the summer assignment, you'll choose one book and write a review of it. Use the list below to find a book that might interest you. Each title is linked to the book's page on the library's website. If you don't like any of the books on the list, you can choose one that is a better fit for you, provided you haven't read it before.

[American Street](#)

[Crossing Ebenezer Creek](#)

[Gem & Dixie](#)

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#)

[Jane, Unlimited](#)

[House of the Scorpion](#)

[My Sister's Keeper](#)

[The Adoration of Jenna Fox](#)

[The Poet Slave of Cuba](#)

[Little & Lion](#)

[Long Way Down](#)

[Saints and Misfits](#)

[Strange the Dreamer](#)

[That Inevitable Victorian Thing](#)

[The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue](#)

[The Upside of Unrequited](#)

[Turtles All the Way Down](#)

[When Dimple Met Rishi](#)

[Love, Hate, and Other Filters](#)

[Watched](#)

[You're Welcome, Universe](#)

[Does My Head Look Big in This?](#)

**Include the following information in the heading of your response:**

Your name

Author

Title

Total pages:

# of pages you read:

How long you spent reading this book:

**For the book you have chosen, write a 500-word review that addresses the following (multiple paragraphs):**

- A brief summary of the book
- What important themes or big ideas does the book explore?
- Which aspects of the book did you enjoy? Explain.
- Which aspects of the book did you think could have been better? Explain.
- Who do you think would be interested in this book? Why?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?