

Hello, Juniors!

This summer please read *Blood Relations* by Sharon Pollock **linked on the Signature School web site.***

This is a play about the historical figure Lizzie Borden, a New Englander accused of murdering her parents in the early 1900s. The Borden murders and Lizzie's trial were widely covered by U.S. newspapers, making it one of the country's first popular "true crime" stories.

It will help you to have some background info on the case before reading the play, so do some preliminary Google diving into the Borden story and take a few notes (Wikipedia is fine). Feel free to go down any rabbit holes that interest you as you research; they may interest others during our class discussion.

As you read the play, think about Pollock's portrayal of Lizzie and her circumstances. What are some of her character traits? What motivates her? What is her family life like? Take a few notes and return to school ready to discuss Pollock's play. We will have a test over the plot/contents to ensure that you read it.

*I have written permission from the author to reprint the play for classroom use, and she provided us with this pdf.

