

The Glass Menagerie: Group Essay Group Members:

Based on the Free Response Question 3 of the AP Literature Exam

Instructions

This assignment is your final assessment of the play that you have been reading with a small group and will count as a summative assessment/major grade. You will have two class blocks to complete it in class. You may work in a group of **NO MORE THAN FOUR** people, which means that your original play groups may need to divide into smaller sub-groups. You also have the option of breaking off by yourself or working with just a partner.

This assignment requires you to complete the following (in this order):

1. choose from one of the prompts below to demonstrate your summative understanding of the play
2. dissect the prompt, making sure you understand what it is asking of you
3. discuss the components of the prompt with your group, making notes and planning your essay as you discuss. This is where your literary circle discussion forms will come in handy. Resurrect those from the depths of your notebooks and refer to the observations you made as you read the play.
4. outline your essay
5. write your essay, making sure to include **SPECIFIC** examples from the text to support your points

Choose ONE of the following essay prompts. Indicate your choice by checking the appropriate box:

- Option 1 (2012): *“And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency.”* Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces*. Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
- Option 2 (2009): A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select a novel or play and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- Option 3 (2002): Morally ambiguous characters – characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good – are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

FORMAT: Indicate your choice by checking the box next to the prompt. Write in blue or black ink on one side of the page only. Edit on the draft; scratch-outs are acceptable, but keep it legible. When you finish, staple this cover sheet to the front of your essay.