



**BRURIAH HIGH SCHOOL**  
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June 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close. We hope all of you have enjoyed this year and your daughter has gained a lot from her classes. Of course as the year winds down, the summer approaches. And so, summer reading cannot be far behind!

At Bruria, we strive to create a dynamic atmosphere of literacy through independent reading, student choice, and lively discussion. In order to maximize their reading experience, we have compiled a list of questions for the girls to consider as they read. In addition, we have assembled a sampling of the type of assignments they will be given once school starts. These are not the actual assignments, just questions for your consideration while reading.

Our plan is to make the summer reading more meaningful. By perusing these questions the students will have a better understanding of both the teacher's goals and the goals inherent in the reading.

Wishing you a pleasant summer.

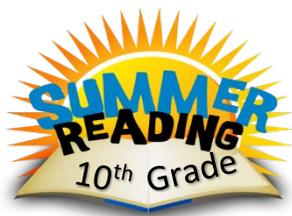
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## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading and Questions (girls formerly in 104)

### A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

### The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

We ask that students please have their own copies of the books, and not use the library, so that they can have a book to use (and annotate) in class.

#### Discussion Questions for A Raisin in the Sun

1. What is the setting of the play?
2. Who, in your opinion, makes all the major decisions in the family?
3. What kind of person is Walter and what are his ambitions in life?
4. What important event is the whole Younger family looking forward to?
5. What plans for the \$10,000 does each member of the family have in mind?

#### Act I—Scene II

1. What is revealed about the character of Beneatha in this scene?
2. How does her African friend view American Blacks?
3. The \$10,000 check finally arrives in the mail. What impact does this event have on each member of the family?

#### Act II—Scene I

1. Compare the personalities of Walter and George Murchison. How are they different?
2. Do you think Lena was right in spending the money the way she wanted to? Should she have considered the wishes of Walter?
3. What are some of the causes of racial prejudice?
4. Lena has a change of heart and turns over to Walter the \$6,500 she has left after making a deposit on a house. What causes her to make this decision?
5. Describe the change in Walter after he gets his hands on the money.

#### Act II—Scene III

1. What kind of person was Mr. Lindner?
2. How do you think Walter feels after hearing from Bobo that Willy has disappeared with the money?
3. How do you think Lena feels after having trusted Walter with the money?

### Act III

1. With the loss of the money Beneatha will not be able to go to medical school. Describe her reaction to her brother and the change in her attitude toward life itself.
2. How has Walter changed since he lost the money?
3. What is his plan to rectify his mistake?
4. Why does Lena disapprove of his plan?
5. The play ends as the Younger family is leaving their old house. What kind of reception do you think is in store for them when they arrive at their new residence?

### Discussion Questions for The Secret Life of Bees

1. **Connections:** text to text, text to self, text to the world. Compare and contrast your book to others you've read, to situations or people in your own life, to events in history or the news.
2. **Characters:** Do you like the main characters or not? Why? Do you have any advice for them? Comment on the narration. Who's telling the story?
3. **Social question:** Look for race, gender, or class inequalities and injustices. Who has the power in the story and how is it used? What do you think? Does it make you think or feel differently about those of another race or gender than your own?
4. **Setting:** Is it realistic? Does it fit the story?
5. **Dialogue:** Is it realistic? Can you "hear" the characters talking? Could you change the dialogue? If you changed the dialogue, how would it change the story?
6. **Emotions:** How were you emotionally involved in the story?
7. **Literary devices:** How does the author use flashbacks and foreshadowing? Is it effective?
8. **Themes:** To what extent is *The Secret Life of Bees* a morality tale?
9. **Ending:** Would you have liked the book to end differently? How?