

Dear English 3 Student,

We are so excited to welcome you into your junior year at Saint Joseph Prep! We hope this letter finds you well on your way to having a rejuvenating summer vacation.

To make sure your reading, analyzing, and critical thinking skills don't get too rusty, all junior American Literature students (CP and Honors) are expected to complete a summer reading assignment before the first day of school. This summer's reading assignment is *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, which will expose you to themes that will be central to your English 3 course of study. We challenge you to put down that phone of yours and limit distractions while reading in order to fully enjoy it.

Remember, in English 3 you will be expected to *always* read with a pen or pencil in hand, so that you are certain you are reading *actively*. Use your pen or pencil to annotate (take notes) in the margins as you read. Fill the margins with questions, predictions, observations, definitions, or any other thoughts related to the reading. Please pay special attention to the following essential questions as you annotate because they will be the foundation of our in-class discussions as well as fodder for the objective test and the timed writing during our first full week of school.

Death of a Salesman Essential Questions:

1. How realistic is the "American Dream," i.e. the idea that hard work can make you succeed in America regardless of your background?
2. How should success be measured? What are some dangers of certain standards of success?
3. How important is popularity to success?
4. What does it mean to be a good parent?
5. How do capitalism and advertising influence how people view themselves and their world?

Please come to the first day of school with a print copy of *Death of a Salesman* filled your detailed annotations. If you have any questions over the summer, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ward at his school email address: Eugene.Ward@saintjosephprep.org

Until then, happy reading!

The SJP English Department