

FENCES

Journal Questions:

In a carefully planned, well supported, and thoughtfully proofread essay — respond to each of the following prompts. Smoothly weave in all quotation support whenever possible, and parenthetically cite in MLA style to keep your flow.

Pre-Journal 0) Working with a plethora of crayons and one trusted partner, sketch the opening set design, including as many textual details as possible; neatly glue or tape it (or a color photocopy of it) into your journal. On the opposite page, explore how the set establishes tone and/or develops the characters who live there. In other words, what does Wilson evoke and/or suggest through the set design?

- 1) Trace the construction of the literal **fence** as it structures ideas and relationships in the play.
- 2) Select **two** symbolic motifs from the list below and trace their development throughout the play. What meaning do the motifs underscore?

music/songs the papers sports money/food

women seeds/gardening the Devil/death Gabriel's trumpet

- 3) Select **one** of the following thematic motifs and make a claim about theme; defend it well.

fathers/sons race the past love legacy/memory

identity/self-worth trust injustice

- 4) Explore Aristotle's classical definition of a tragic hero.

According to the Aristotelian definition, is Troy Maxson a tragic hero?

If not, could an argument be made for Troy Maxson as a postmodern tragic hero?

Defend your answer with compelling textual details.

- 5) Select **one** of the following characters and explore their role and function in the play.

Gabe Bono Raynell Lyons



Close Reading:

We will colormark **eight key passages**. I will place you in a group where you'll produce **one written commentary** to distribute to your class and **one oral commentary** to be delivered to your peers during classtime. Each commentary will last approximately 20 minutes.

After the commentary, I'll that you're prepared to lead a 10-minute discussion on your passage: have discussion questions ready. You'll see all due dates posted on the schedule board and clarified in class as we study the text. *Note:* All students are expected to colormark all eight of the passages (prior to the relevant oral presentation of discussion of each).