

Harrison Central High School  
Summer Reading Project  
Pre-AP English I  
Ms. Hamilton

**Summer Reading Titles:** 1. The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros  
2. The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan  
3. Sula by Toni Morrison

**Objectives:** (1) To increase efficiency and productivity by providing a common text that students can discuss at the beginning of the year.

(2) To develop a foundation of rigor and close reading skills that will be used throughout the year.

(3) To build reading and writing skills and formatively assess understanding of key concepts.

(4) To provide a thematic common point of reference that students and teachers may return to throughout the year with other multi-genre selections.

(5) To promote literacy by exposing students to literature of merit.

**Method:** Keep a reading journal throughout the summer for **all of the books** you read.  
Respond to a set of questions. You *may* include personal comments on your reading process.

**Content:** The Journal will fall into two parts totaling fourteen journal entries of at Least 250 for each book listed above.

**Part 1** consists of answers to three questions for each of the three titles.

**Part 2** consists of answers to five questions, which will be synthesis entries on the various combinations of the books.

**Due Date:** The reading journal must be submitted on the first full day of your English class.

**Format:** The journal must be typed. (*Double-spaced, Times New Roman, and font 12 size*)

**Questions:** Please contact Ms. Hamilton with any questions you have during the

summer immediately email [ahamilton@harrison.k12.ms.us](mailto:ahamilton@harrison.k12.ms.us) .

### Part 1

**Directions:** For each of the three titles you have read, answer your choice of three of the following questions totaling nine answers. You may choose different questions for the different books. For each answer make sure that you identify the book and the question to be answered.

1. (Before reading) What assumptions do you have going into the reading? (Follow up) Are your assumptions playing out, or has the author taken a different tract than you expected?
2. What surprised you about the reading?
3. How can you apply what you have read to your own life?
4. Select three quotes from the reading to which you related. With what did you connect in those quotes?
5. What is the title? How does the title relate to what is going on in the book?
6. What questions would you like answered about your reading? How would knowing those answers change your perspective on the book?
7. Who is the author? What do you know about the author? What do you imagine the author is like? Are there any aspects of the plot that seem to reflect parts of the author's life?
8. Who do you think is the book's intended audience? What gives you that impression?
9. What are the important messages in this book? Why do you think the author felt it was important to tell those messages?

### Part 2

**Directions:** Answer the following questions.

1. Which character do you consider dynamic, and which do you consider static? (Be sure to include the novels in which the characters are featured)
2. Which author gives the reader the best dynamic character? Explain your response.
3. Which author develops the conflict(s) in his/her story the best? Compare the major conflict in the novels to strengthen your point.
4. In which book is the setting essential to the story? Explain why. Why is the setting less essential to the other stories?
5. Evaluate the themes of the books. Do you think the authors were influenced by an event in their social, religious, or political backgrounds? Explain your responses.