

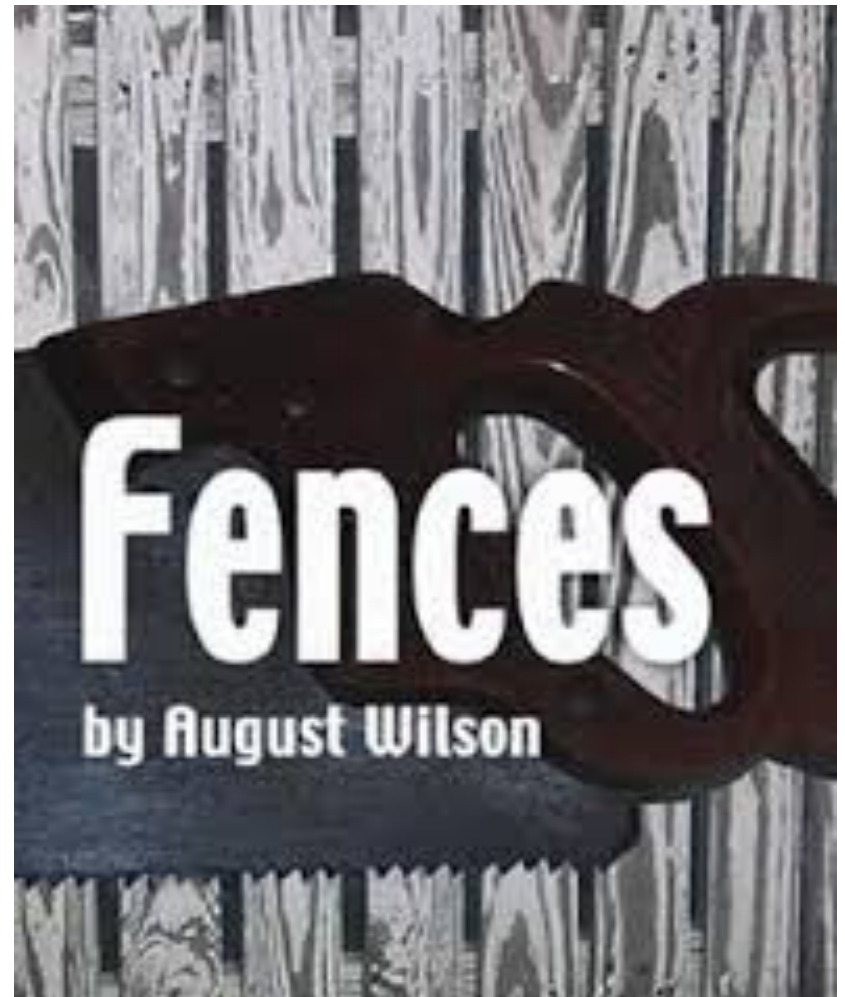
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a worn baseball with red stitching. The hand is dark-skinned and the baseball is light-colored with visible wear and discoloration. The background is dark.

AUGUST WILSON'S FENCES

1987 WINNER OF PULITZER PRIZE IN DRAMA

Unit Goal

Students will write a response essays that examines author's use of **SYMBOLS** to reveal a.) the conflicts caused by expectations in family relationships b.) the flaws of the 20th Century tragic hero c.) the impact of larger political forces on private lives.



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

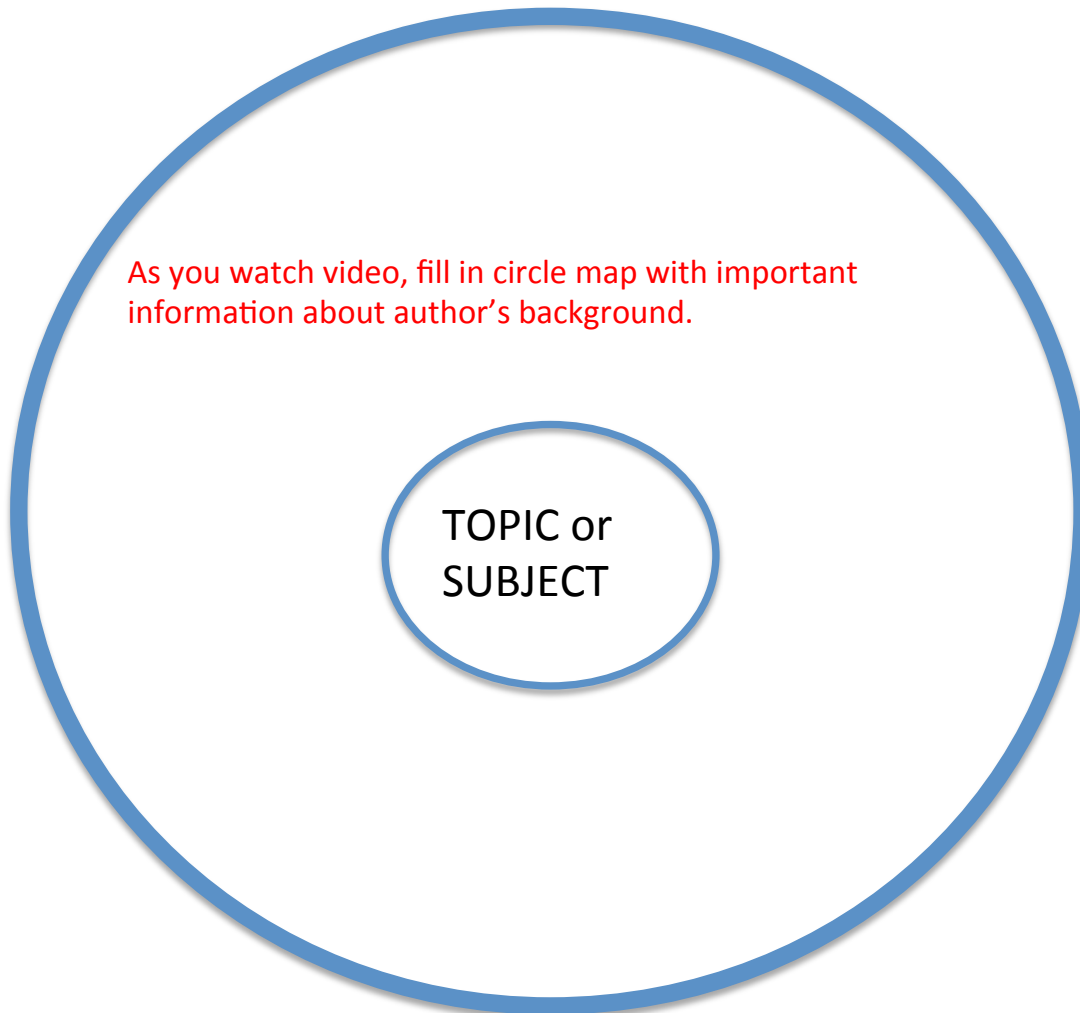
How do family relationships and expectations shape our identity and motivate our plans for the future?

To what degree are family conflicts caused by unrealistic expectations?

Do individuals have any responsibilities to the dreams created by those who supported/ raised them? (family members or otherwise)

Are most people destined to make the same mistakes as their parents?

After you conduct your research, use circle map info to prepare to write a background paragraph.



Use the following paragraph frame:

_____ can be described as
_____. He was born
_____ and spent most of his
life _____. While _____, he
became interested in _____.
Additionally, _____.
His writing attempts to
_____ by
_____.

What does the script reveal about the
SYMBOLISM of the family members?

EVENT/ QUOTE:

What happens? Who
does it happen to?

Analysis: WHY DOES IT
HAPPEN? WHY IT IS
IMPORTANT?

The dialogue shows,
_____.

This event
reveals _____
_____.

The statement makes
clear, _____.

The character
demonstrates _____
_____.

This comment
suggests _____
_____.

The character's behavior is
evidence that _____.

Give One Get One

1. Use the OBJECTIVE to write your question. Answer your question.
2. Collect three ideas from peers write them down .
3. After every conversation, have your peer sign their name.
4. At the end of the activity, give props to peers' ideas!

Question: *Are FENCES a symbol of optimism or pessimism? Why?*

My ideas:

My peers ideas:

1.

2.

3.

Whip Around

- I liked when _____ said _____ because _____.
- An interesting idea _____
- Something I learned from the discussion _____.
- I still don't understand _____.



Single-Paragraph Summary Template:
Short Story Summary

Summary Template to identify main idea and key events in the play's plot.

Identifying the topic	The <i>story</i> titled “ _____ _____ ” by _____...	<input type="radio"/> examines <input type="radio"/> addresses <input type="radio"/> explores <input type="radio"/> supports	<input type="checkbox"/> the idea of... <input type="checkbox"/> the relationship between... <input type="checkbox"/> the importance of.. <input type="checkbox"/> the reasons for...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Introducing the content	The <i>exposition</i>	<input type="radio"/> reveals <input type="radio"/> introduces <input type="radio"/> shows		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Including key details	Complications	<input type="checkbox"/> are caused by... <input type="checkbox"/> arise as... <input type="checkbox"/> include		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Including key details	The climax	<input type="radio"/> is a key event <input type="radio"/> is a powerful example	<input type="checkbox"/> that illustrates ... <input type="checkbox"/> that explains ... <input type="checkbox"/> that proves <input type="checkbox"/> because ...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Conclusion	Finally, the story's resolution	<input type="radio"/> supports <input type="radio"/> confirms <input type="radio"/> reinforce <input type="radio"/> emphasize	<input type="checkbox"/> the value of ... <input type="checkbox"/> the need for... <input type="checkbox"/> the link between... <input type="checkbox"/> the causes of...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Reader Response Essay

- **Task Description:** A reader's response is your chance to communicate in writing your personal viewpoint and personal learning as they relate specifically to the book, essay, paper, article, etc. in question and the ideas and values contained therein. A good response paper will artfully make a connection between the subject at hand and your own experience.
- **Instructions:** *Write a response essay that completes ALL of the following tasks.*
- **Paragraph 1 Background Paragraph:** Who is the author? What topics does the author explore? What beliefs, values, ideals and/ or ideas about those topics is the author trying to promote in this work?
- **Paragraph 2 Analytical Summary:** Write an ANALYTICAL SUMMARY that answers your INQUIRY QUESTION.
- **Paragraph 3 Personal Response:** How has reading and reflecting on this author's work affected your lived world experience and views of American society/culture and national identity? What is your personal position relative to the author's? Do you agree/disagree? Explain yourself and provide specific examples.