



**Rosati-Kain English Department
Summer Reading List for New Sophomores 2017-2018**

We ask that during the summer you read *two plays* in preparation for your sophomore literature class. You are responsible for finding your own copies of the works listed below.

Everyone needs to read *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. You will discuss this play in your American Literature class, and your written assignment will be due to that teacher on the first day of class. To prepare for the discussion, please write a five-paragraph essay on ONE of the following:

1. Compare and contrast life in Grovers Corners in the early 1900's to life today in the early 2000's. Include comments about occupations, marriage, and daily household life.
2. Characterize an interesting character. Choose to characterize him or her based upon his or her physical, mental, social, moral, and emotional personality traits OR on what he/she says or doesn't say, what he/she does or doesn't do, and what others say about him/her.

Write a well-developed essay in answer to ONE question. Please type and double space your assignment. Your headings and citations should be in MLA format.

For your second work, read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. After you have read this play, form an opinion based on a theme such as Repression, Religious Fervor, or a theme of your choice. This will be your thesis statement. Write a five-paragraph essay developing this topic. Be specific and use examples. Please type and double space your assignment. Your headings and citations should be in MLA format.

Have the two papers ready to turn in for your first English class of the year. These papers will NOT be graded, but they will be used for discussion and evaluation.