

U.S. History (Honors)

2019 Summer Reading/Writing Assignment: Sam Shepard's "Buried Child"



The following is your summer reading for U.S. History (H): *Buried Child*, Sam Shepard (Dramatists Play Service), ISBN: 978-0822215110

This is where you can find your summer reading:

https://www.amazon.com/Buried-Child-Acting-Sam-Shepard/dp/082221511X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1494807621&sr=8-1&keywords=buried+child

Based on your reading of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*, answer each of the 5 prompts below thoughtfully and completely in no less than 250 words for each response. Make sure to **provide textual evidence and to cite it using correct MLA-format for in-text citations and "Works Cited."** In-text citations for plays are done somewhat differently: because this is not a verse play (like Shakespeare), give the page number, followed by a semi-colon and the act. For example: (57; act 2).

Your answers should be **typed**, using either **Google Docs** or **Word**.

Due Date = first day of classes: You will be expected to share your completed assignment with John Goulding at johng@idyllwildarts.org

- 1) Characterization:** Choose one of the characters and trace how s/he experiences some kind of transformation (or not) over the course of Sam Shepard's play. In your analysis, consider not only external traits (physical characteristics, voice, gestures, related objects), but also the character's motivations, values and beliefs, and how s/he "lives" as part of the family. Characterize his/her relationships and how other characters influence his/her actions. What might this character represent?
- 2) *Buried Child* as American Play:** Find examples throughout the play that suggest its "American-ness." Consider the following:
 - Setting: How important is geography? When does the play take place? What was going on in American society at that time? (In class, we will also talk about the play's relevancy in 2017.)
 - Is there anything about the characters that make them particularly American?
 - Is there a worldview or ideology expressed that can be seen as American (*American Dream*? Protestant work ethic? Ideas of masculinity and femininity? Attitudes towards "outsiders" or "foreigners"?)

List your examples, giving the correct in-text citation. For each example, you should also write a brief explanation as to how/why it shows its “American-ness.”

3) Conflict(s) and Heroes:

Describe the conflict(s) in *Buried Child*. Certainly, this is a drama about family and secrets. What are the secrets being kept? Who benefits from those secrets? Does the family and its secrets represent anything bigger than its own conflicts? What is being contested here?

Is there a **clear hero** in the play? In this kind of contemporary play, anti-heroes can play a significant role. Consider which character(s) questions the status quo, which character(s) comes and goes. Is there a character who is consistent throughout the play?

4) Formulating Questions: There are **different types of questions:** factual (“right there” with answers found in the text); inductive (require synthesizing or analyzing answers from the text); analytical (go beyond the text for some “big” or essential question)

Examples:

- Factual *How do Dodge and Tilden respond to Vince in Act Two?*
- Inductive *Describe Halie and Dodge’s relationship?*
- Analytical *What responsibilities do we have to our family?*

Formulate one question for each type, which will help us in our discussion of the play’s specifics, as well as some of the themes in *Buried Child*.

Write down answers to your own questions, citing textual evidence.

Part II: Short Writing

Respond to the following prompt with at least 250 typewritten words, **using one particular character or one detailed passage from the play** and, of course, formatted according to MLA style requirements (see above)

Based on your reading of Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child*, what is the individual’s responsibility to one’s family, community, country, or school?

IAA Humanities/MLA Format

When formatting a paper, we will use the MLA style.

In general, your paper should start with a heading:

Sally Sweet
Molly Newman
Classics of Western Literature
18 Sept. 2007

Capitalize Your Title but Do not Underline It

Your text should be 12 point, Times New Roman. Your margins should be 1". You should include a title, and your pages should be numbered.

When you are citing from a text, you should first determine whether your quote is short or long. If it is more than four lines typed in the body of your paper, it is considered long.

Quoting a short text:

When you are quoting a prose passage fewer than four lines, you simply set-up to it and include it in the body of your passage. "Sometimes, when Miss Wilmarth opened the shiny boxes and carefully grouped the cards, there would come a curious expression on her face" (Parker 260).

Note: end quotation, parenthesis, author's last name, page number, close citation, punctuation.

Quoting a long text:

When quoting a section of prose longer than four lines, you should start a new line and indent the entire quote 1" or 2 tabs. Please note that you will not need quotation marks.

Quote set-up:

Oh, don't keep trying to be brave, child. Not with me. Just give in—it helps ever so much. Just tell me all about it. You know I'll never say a word.
Or at least you ought to know. When Alice told me that maid of yours said you were all tired out and your nerves had gone bad, I naturally never said anything. (Parker 247)

When you begin your analysis, be sure not to indent the next line.

What to do about dialogue?

In a short quote, use a single quotation mark to indicate speech: ““Why the hell don’t you stay home and not go spoiling everybody’s evening?’ he had roared”(Parker 199)

In a long quote, format the dialogue as it appears in your text, maintaining your 1” indent.

Since your don’t put long quotes in quotation marks, use regular quotation marks to indicate dialogue:

“Oh, tomato soup, eh?” he said.

“Yes,” she answered. “You like it, don’t you?”

“Who—me?” he said. “Oh, yes. Yes, indeed.”

She smiled at him.

“Yes I thought you liked it,” she said.

“You like it, too, don’t you?” he enquired.

“Oh, yes,” she assured him. “Yes, I like it ever so much. I’m awfully fond of tomato soup.”

(Parker 176)

What to do about poetry?

When quoting poetry, you need to maintain the integrity of the line. You indicate line breaks differently depending on whether the quotation is long or short. A short quotation is four lines or fewer. A long quotation is more than four lines.

A short quotation is included in the body of your text: “This is the time of year / when almost every night / the frail, illegal fire balloons appear”(Bishop 1-3).

Please note that a / indicates a line break. Your parenthetical citation indicates the line numbers, not the page numbers.

A long quotation should be indented one inch or two tabs and should look like it does in the original text:

In Just-
spring when the world is mud-
luscious the little
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee (cumplings 1-5)

Italicizing versus Quoting:

The general rule of thumb about titles is that if a work is published on its own, then it gets italicized or underlined. If a work is published as part of a larger work, then it gets quotation marks.

Italicized: novels, plays, films, books of poetry, periodical titles

Quotation marks: poems, short stories, articles, essays

Your own essay: nothing (unless it's published)
Alphabetize your bibliographic entries!

Works Cited

"The Daguerreian Era and Early American Photography on Paper, 1839–1860."
Metmuseum.org. 2012. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Web. 4 Oct 2012.

"Temperance and Prohibition." *Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. History: Government and Politics*.
Detroit: Gale, 2009. *Student Resources In Context*. Web. 20 Feb. 2013.

For websites:

Last name, first name. "Title of Article." *Name of Website*. Date last updated or version
number. Publisher information or name of site sponsor. Web. date you accessed the
material.

For books:

Last name, first name. *Title in Italics*. City where published: Publisher name, date.

For a work in an anthology:

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of
Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range of entry. Medium of Publication.

Formatting issues:

1. Use hanging indent. Under format, go to Paragraph, go to Indentation: special: Hanging.