

## Focused Reading Assignment

Read one of the following plays during the spring break. Be prepared to address the focus question in writing during the first week of school. The focus question is an Advanced Placement essay question from 2009 and 2008. You do not need to write this essay during the summer break, but you should think through how you might use your selection to respond to the question. You will write a timed essay response to the question during the first few days of class in the fall.

### Plays to Choose From:

- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw

### Essay Prompt for *A Doll's House*:

Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. Choose a novel or play that focuses on a political or social issue. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

### Essay Prompt for *Pygmalion*:

In a literary work, a minor character, often known as a foil, possesses traits that emphasize, by contrast or comparison, the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the main character. For example, the ideas or behavior of the minor character might be used to highlight the weaknesses or strengths of the main character. Choose a novel or play in which a minor character serves as a foil to a main character. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the relation between the minor character and the major character illuminates the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize.