

KENNY LEON'S

**true colors**

THEATRE COMPANY

**THE MUSIC IS TUPAC. THE STORY IS NOW.**



## CURRICULUM GUIDE

Written by TODD KREIDLER

Directed by KENNY LEON

SEPTEMBER 12- OCTOBER 8, 2017

BOLDNESS

LAUGHTER

ABUNDANCE

RESPECT

# HOLLER IF YA HEAR ME

SEPTEMBER 12-OCTOBER 8, 2017

SOUTHWEST ARTS CENTER

**INSPIRED BY: TUPAC SHAKUR**

**LYRICS BY: TUPAC SHAKUR**

**WRITTEN BY: TODD KREIDLER**

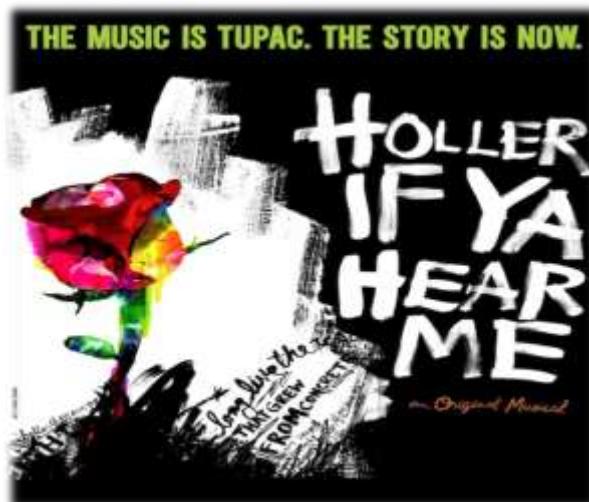
**DIRECTED BY: KENNY LEON**

## Play Synopsis

*Holler If Ya Hear Me*, the world inside Tupac Shakur's music and lyrics, blazes to life in a non-biographical story about friendship, family, revenge, change and hope. Inner city lives struggle for peace against the daily challenges they face in this entertaining and original musical. Through the poetry of one of the 20th century's most influential and culturally prominent voices, we are given a window into realities of the streets still relevant today.

## Setting

The time is NOW on MY BLOCK in winter in a Midwestern industrial city.



BOLDNESS

LAUGHTER

ABUNDANCE

RESPECT

# Characters

JOHN CAVINESS	• 27, Two strikes, fresh out of jail, self-taught cartoonist
VERTUS WESTON	• 26, slings drugs, king of "My Block"
BRIAN GRIFFIN	• 23, white mechanic, plays acoustic guitar
CORRINNE	• 24, Vertus' girlfriend, works in grocery store
ANDREA WESTON	• 47 Vertus' mother
NUNN	• One of Vertus' two-man crew
MY BLOCK CHORUS	• Array of men and women from the neighborhood
OLD LADY	• Part of the "My Block Chorus, an old lady living out of a bag
STREET PREACHER	• Member of the "My Block" chorus who stands on the corner with a bullhorn
CRAZY LADY	• member of the "My Block chorus, her belly with a baby
YOUNG SOULJAS	• A group of friends. All of them a year out of high school
ANTHONY	• 19, One of the young souljas, who is the best friend of Vertus' brother
DARIUS	• 20, One of the young souljas and the other of Vertus' two-man crew
REGGIE	• 19, One of the young souljas
LEMAR	• 18, One of the young souljas

# STANDARDS/OBJECTIVES

Below are the Georgia Department of Education's state standards that correlate with the *Holler If Ya Hear Me* Curriculum. This is merely a suggested guide of instruction.

## THEATRE STANDARDS

<b>TAHSFTI.1: Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature and electronic media</b>	<b>TAHSFTI.6: Researching cultural and historical information to support artistic choices</b>
a. Critiques elements of theatrical conventions	a. Defines the role of the dramaturge
b. Generates and uses terminology and outline for critiquing theatre presentations	b. Applies the skills of the dramaturge to various scenes
c. Cites evidence of how theatre reflects life through universal themes	c. Interprets data for use in production
<b>TAHSFTII.7: Integrating various art forms, other content areas and life experiences to create the</b>	<b>TAHSTLI.10: Critiquing various aspects of theatre and other media using appropriate supporting evidence</b>
a. Identifies the various art forms which may be integrated into theater(e.g. dance, music , visual arts, graphic arts, and electronic media theatre	a. Develops a set of comprehensive criteria to asses a dramatic work
b. Synthesize observation, imagination, and research to created characters, environments and situations	b. Analyze the effectiveness of a dramatic work

## ENGLISH STANDARDS

- Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g. how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone)
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g. parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g. pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension or surprise.
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside of the United States , drawing on a wide reading of world literature

- Analyze the representation of a subject or key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment

## ENGLISH STANDARDS (CONT)

- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple meaning words and phrases based on grades 9-10 reading and content
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening and to write and to edit, so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual
- Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing and speaking and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing projects, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
- Conduct short as well as sustained research projects to answer a question(including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate
- Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital resources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate the information into the

text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation

- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research

## **ENGLISH STANDARDS (CONT)**

- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging or beautiful.
- Analyze how the author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
- Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant(e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony or understatement)
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story drama or poem or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization and analysis of content
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details and well- structured event sequences
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, in groups, teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 11-12 topics texts and issues, building on others ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively

# TUPAC SHAKUR

*Tupac Shakur was an American rapper, record producer, actor, and poet who sold over 75 million records worldwide. He is often ranked as one of the greatest and most influential rappers of all time.*



## TUPAC SHAKUR QUICK FACTS

BACKGROUND	MUSIC CAREER	PERSONAL/LEGAL BATTLES	FILM/TV
born Lesane Parish Crooks; June 16, 1971. His stage name was 2 Pac Shakur and Makaveli.	has sold over 75 million records worldwide	Shakur was a vocal participant during the East Coast–West Coast hip hop rivalry, becoming involved in conflicts with other rappers, producers, and record-label staff members, most notably The Notorious B.I.G. and the label Bad Boy Records	He made his first film appearance in <i>Nothing but Trouble</i> , as part of a cameo by the Digital Underground
Shakur's love of theater and Shakespeare also influenced his work. A student of the Baltimore School for the Arts where he studied theater, Shakur understood the Shakespearian psychology of inter-gang wars and inter-cultural conflict.	His double disc albums <i>All Eyez on Me</i> and his <i>Greatest Hits</i> are among the best-selling albums in the United States with <i>All Eyez on Me</i> selling 10,000,000 copies and <i>Greatest Hits</i> selling 10,200,000 units	In October 1991, Shakur filed a \$10 million civil suit against the Oakland Police Department, alleging that the police brutally beat him for jaywalking	His first starring role was in the film <i>Juice</i> . In this film, he played Roland Bishop, a violent member of the Wrecking Crew, for which he was hailed by Rolling Stone's Peter Travers as "the film's most magnetic figure"
Shakur began his career as a roadie, backup dancer, and MC for the alternative hip hop group Digital Underground, eventually branching off as a solo artist.[	He has been listed and ranked as one of the greatest artists of all time by many publications, including Rolling Stone, which ranked him 86th on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time	Qa'id Walker-Teal, a 6-year-old boy, was pedaling his bicycle at a school playground nearby when a bullet struck him in the forehead and killed him. Although the police matched the bullet to a .38-caliber pistol registered to Shakur, and although his stepbrother, Maurice Harding, was initially arrested on suspicion of firing the weapon, no	He starred in <i>Poetic Justice</i> and <i>Above the Rim</i> .

		charges were filed. In 1995, a wrongful death suit was brought against Shakur by Qa'id's mother. A settlement was reached outside of court	
Both of his parents and several other people in his family were members of the Black Panther Party, whose ideals were reflected in his songs.	On April 7, 2017, Shakur will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.	On April 5, 1993, Shakur was charged with one count of felonious assault. He was accused of attempting to hit rapper Chauncey Wynn from the group M.A.D. with a baseball bat at a concert at Michigan State University.	After his death, three of his completed films were released: Bullet, Gridlock'd, and Gang Related.
Shakur didn't have any children. He was also considered a deist, though his works often referenced God.	The themes of most of Shakur's songs revolved around the violence and hardship in inner cities, racism, and other social problems.	Two brothers and off-duty police officers, Mark and Scott Whitwell, were with their wives celebrating Mrs. Whitwell's passing of the state bar examination. As they crossed the street, a car with Shakur inside passed them or "almost struck them". The Whitwells argued with the driver, Shakur, and the other passengers, who were joined by a second passing car. Shakur shot one officer in the buttocks and the other in the leg, back, or abdomen, according to varying news reports. Mark Whitwell was charged with firing at Shakur's car and later lying to the police during the investigation. Shakur was charged with the shooting. Prosecutors dropped all charges against the parties	Shakur had been slated to star in the Hughes brothers' film Menace II Society, but was replaced by Larenz Tate
On September 7, 1996, Shakur was fatally shot in a drive-by shooting at the intersection of Flamingo Road and Koval Lane in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was taken to the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, where he died six days later.[13]	Shakur continued to rap about the social ills facing African Americans, with songs like "The Streetz R Deathrow" and "Last Wordz". He also showed his compassionate side with the anthem "Keep Ya Head Up", while putting his legendary aggressiveness on display with the title track from the album Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.	In early 1994, he was found guilty of assaulting Menace II Society co-director Allen Hughes and served 15 days in jail.[115][116] The previous year, Shakur had	Director John Singleton mentioned that he wrote the script for Baby Boy with Shakur in mind for the lead role. It was eventually filmed with Tyrese Gibson in his place and released in 2001, five years after Shakur's death.

# TASK-1 WEBQUEST

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A WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented lesson format in which most or all the information that learners work with comes from the web. Below is a list of questions. Follow the links and answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. When was Kreidler's Holler If Ya Hear me slated for Broadway?  
[http://blog.arenastage.org/arena\\_stage\\_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html](http://blog.arenastage.org/arena_stage_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html)
2. What August Wilson work did Kreidler direct off Broadway?  
[http://blog.arenastage.org/arena\\_stage\\_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html](http://blog.arenastage.org/arena_stage_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html)
3. What was Kreidler afraid of as a young director?  
[http://blog.arenastage.org/arena\\_stage\\_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html](http://blog.arenastage.org/arena_stage_blogs/2013/11/meet-the-artists-playwright-todd-kreidler.html)
4. Who partnered with Todd Kreidler to create the August Wilson Monologue Competition?  
<http://www.broadwayworld.com/boston/article/Huntington-to-Host-2017-August-Wilson-Monologue-Competition-Boston-Regional-Finals-20170124>
5. Which two August Wilson plays was Kreidler a dramaturg?  
<http://www.playbill.com/person/todd-kreidler-vault-0000000508>
6. Which 1967 film did Kreidler adapt? <http://dctheatrescene.com/2013/12/11/todd-kreidler-re-writing-guess-whos-coming-dinner-stage/>
7. Who came up with the idea to adapt the screenplay?  
<http://dctheatrescene.com/2013/12/11/todd-kreidler-re-writing-guess-whos-coming-dinner-stage/>
8. What was ironic about the 2005 Nobel Prized deliberations?  
<http://dctheatrescene.com/2013/12/17/learning-august-wilson-todd-kreidler-remembers-friend-mentor/>
9. What is Holler If Ya Hear Me about? <http://www.broadway.com/shows/holler-if-you-hear-me/story/>
10. Holler If Ya Hear Me closed on Broadway after (how long)  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/saul-williams-details-why-the-tupac-musical-closed-20140721>
11. What was the producer, Eric Gold's reasoning for closing the show early?  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/saul-williams-details-why-the-tupac-musical-closed-20140721>
12. What indicator did the lead actor, Saul Williams, have that the show would potentially close early? <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/saul-williams-details-why-the-tupac-musical-closed-20140721>

13. According to Saul Williams, why did fewer people see the play?  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/saul-williams-details-why-the-tupac-musical-closed-20140721>
14. Does Williams feel there is hope for future Hip Hop Musicals?  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/saul-williams-details-why-the-tupac-musical-closed-20140721>
15. Why did the Palace Theatre reconfigure the theatre to 600 seats during the Holler If Ya Hear Me run? <http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>
16. How much did it cost to mount this production?  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>
17. What were the critics fundamental complaints about the musical?  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>
18. Who directed Holler If Ya Hear Me?  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>
19. Who were some of the members of the cast of Holler If Ya Hear?  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>
20. What Broadway revival did Kenny Leon direct which garnered a Tony win?  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/6157599/tupac-musical-holler-if-ya-hear-me-swift-closes-broadway>

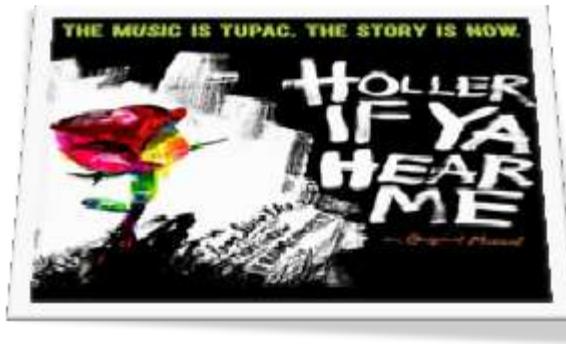
## WebQuest Answers

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1. 2014
2. How I Learned What I learned
3. I had some early success writing plays when I was young in Pittsburgh and that scared me. I turned my focus to directing and by the time I started working with August Wilson and became his dramaturg I was directing a lot — I was a director who really wanted to be a writer, but was scared. Not that directing isn't incredibly difficult and rewarding but what I really wanted to do was write.
4. Kenny Leon
5. Radio Golf and Gem of the Ocean
6. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
7. The idea to do it came from Kenny Leon, Artistic Director of True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta. Both Leon and Kreidler had worked with August Wilson during the last years of Wilson's life, and Leon subsequently invited Kreidler to be Associate Artistic Director at True Colors
8. The Nobel Prizes are generally announced on the first or second Thursday in October. Wilson died on Oct. 2, 2005. That year, the prizes were expected to be announced on Oct. 6. In fact, the other awards were announced on that date, but the Prize for Literature was delayed a week, until Oct. 13.
9. The world inside Tupac Shakur's music and lyrics, blazes to life in a non-biographical story about friendship, family, revenge, change and hope. Inner city lives struggle for peace against the daily challenges they face in this entertaining and original musical
10. closed after only one month and 55 performances
11. financial burdens of Broadway"
12. Every day at rehearsal, Kenny Leon was saying, "Let's be very clear with the fact that this play is probably going to be hated coming out the gates." We see how full or empty the house is every night. Twenty-six thousand people have seen the play and, of those people, we've had fucking standing ovations every night and tremendous support from the people that have seen it. But the producer, Eric Gold, said to me, "We expect that the first two months are going to be really difficult."
13. One of our producers came in really angry because he had spoken to one of the TKTS people [who man Broadway ticket-selling booths] — not saying she was a producer — and asked them, "What about Holler? Should I see that?" And the response of the person who is supposed to guide tourists to plays was like, "It's a bit of a downer. It's not necessarily as fun as" whatever other play they mentioned. Then she approached another one and that person was like, "Oh, it got really bad reviews." We started a street team at the last minute to counter those TKTS people who are really supposed to be promoting everything on Broadway.
14. Who are we fooling? More hip-hop musicals are inevitable if Broadway wishes to survive. Broadway may sleep. Most people I saw were like, "Yo Holler, I've heard about it, man.

I'm going to come check it out in August or September." They just had that thought that it was going to be there and didn't move soon enough. But I didn't really experience hate. It was just that sense of "Oh, it's there; it'll be there." People don't necessarily realize that actual support is needed at the beginning of a new idea.

- 15. o create a more intimate experience with a stadium-style view due to low numbers
- 16. 8 million dollars
- 17. was that Shakur's lyrics don't lend themselves to being contextualized in a traditional story-driven musical.
- 18. Kenny Leon
- 19. The cast is headed by Saul Williams, Christopher Jackson, Saycon Sengbloh and Tonya Pinkins.
- 20. Raisin In the Sun



## VOCABULARY

Cape	Homicide	Exterminate	Hoochies	characterization
Suicidal	Exposition	Tone	Climax	Conflict
Reminiscent	Descend	Dynamic character	persona	Theme
Hectic	Billie Holiday	Compare contrast	Denouement	Vernacular
Ghetto	Pipe dream	Rising action	Static character	Jail cell
Welfare	Plot outline	Antagonist	Irony	Bullhorn
Prevail	Falling action	Protagonist	Round character	Racism
Falling	Flat	Meter	archetype	Strapped
Cinderblocks	Salvage	Subaru-	Cemetery	Pulpit
Chain link	Allergic	Dope fiend	Casket	Jheri curl
Coveralls	Tarp	Hennessey	Memorial	Fiend
Carburetor	Deuce	Adolescents	Mementos-	Felony
Malcom X	Geronimo Pratt	Scheming	Prophecy	Glock
Huey P. Newton	Scandalous	Sudoku-	Unconditional	Corpse
Solitaire	Mutulu	Hospice	Burden	Poverty
Penitentiary	Mandela	Venom	Psychotic	Contemplated-
Pistol	Bamboozle	Verdict	Peers	Coroner
				Mansions

**Reminiscent-** the enjoyable recollection of past events

**Hectic-**full of incessant or frantic activity

**Ghetto-**a part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group or groups

**Welfare-**financial support given to people in need

**Prevail-**prove more powerful than opposing forces; be victorious.

**Suicidal-** deeply unhappy or depressed and likely to commit suicide

**Strapped**-short of money or carrying a weapon

**Racism**-prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior

**Bullhorn**-an electronic device for amplifying the sound of the voice so it can be heard at a distance.

**Pipe dream**-an unattainable or fanciful hope or scheme

**Cape**-a sleeveless cloak, typically a short one

**Billie Holiday**- Eleanora Fagan (April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959), professionally known as Billie Holiday, was an American jazz musician and singer-songwriter with a career spanning nearly thirty years. Nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and music partner Lester Young, Holiday had a seminal influence on jazz music and pop singing.

**Descend**-move or fall downward

**Jail cell**- a large cell where prisoners (people awaiting trial or sentence or refugees or illegal immigrants) are confined together temporarily

**Homicide**-the deliberate and unlawful killing of one person by another; murder

**Exterminate**-destroy completely

**Hoochie**-a young woman who has many casual sexual partners or who dresses or behaves in a sexually provocative way

**Cinderblocks**-a lightweight building brick made from small cinders mixed with sand and cement

**Chain link fence**-A chain-link fence (also referred to as wire netting, wire-mesh fence, chain-wire fence, cyclone fence, hurricane fence, or diamond-mesh fence) is a type of woven fence usually made from galvanized or LLDPE-coated steel wire

**Coveralls**-a one-piece protective garment worn for heavy manual work

**Carburetor**-a device in an internal combustion engine for mixing air with a fine spray of liquid fuel

**Salvage**-the act of saving or rescuing a ship or its cargo : the act of saving or rescuing property in danger (as from fire)

**Allergic**-caused by or relating to an allergy. Having a strong dislike for

**Tarp**-a tarpaulin sheet or cover

**Deuce**-a thing representing, or represented by, the number two, in particular.

**Subaru**- a car

**Dope fiend**-a habitual user of a narcotic.

**Hennessey**-Jas Hennessy & Co., or more simply Hennessy, is a cognac house with headquarters in Cognac, France. Jas Hennessy & Co. sells about 50 million bottles a year worldwide, or more than 40 percent of the world's cognac, making it the world's largest cognac producer.

**Adolescents**-(of a young person) in the process of developing from a child into an adult.

**Scheming**—given to or involved in making secret and underhanded plans.

**Cemetery**-a burial ground; a graveyard.

**Casket**-a small ornamental box or chest for holding jewels, letters, or other valuable objects

**Memorial**-something, especially a structure, established to remind people of a person or event.

**Mementos**-an object kept as a reminder or souvenir of a person or event.

**Prophesy**-a prediction.

**Pulpit**-a raised platform or lectern in a church or chapel from which the preacher delivers a sermon.

**Jheri curl**- The Jheri curl (often spelled Jerry curl or Jeri Curl) is a permed hairstyle that was popular among African Americans during the 1980s. Invented by the hairdresser Jheri Redding, the Jheri curl gave the wearer a glossy, loosely curled look.

**Fiend**-a wicked or cruel person. One that is also hooked on drugs

**Felony**-a crime, typically one involving violence, regarded as more serious than a misdemeanor, and usually punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.

**Glock**-The Glock pistol, sometimes referred to by the manufacturer as a Glock "Safe Action" pistol and colloquially as a Glock, is a series of polymer-framed, short recoil-operated, locked-breech semi-automatic pistols designed and produced by Glock Ges.m.b.H., located in Deutsch-Wagram, Austria.

**Malcom X**-Malcolm X definition. An African-American political leader of the twentieth century. A prominent Black Muslim, Malcolm X explained the group's viewpoint in a book written by Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X. He was assassinated in 1965.

**Geronimo Pratt**-Geronimo Pratt (born Elmer Pratt, September 13, 1947 – June 2, 2011), also known as Geronimo Ji-Jaga and Geronimo Ji-Jaga Pratt, was a high-ranking member of the Black Panther Party.

**Huey P. Newton**-Huey P. Newton was born in Monroe, Louisiana, on February 17, 1942, and named after former governor Huey P. Long. In 1966, Newton and Bobby Seale founded the left-wing Black Panther Party for Self Defense in Oakland, California.

**Solitaire**-any of various card games played by one person, the object of which is to use up all one's cards by forming particular arrangements and sequences

**Penitentiary**-a prison for people convicted of serious crimes.

**Bamboozle**-fool or cheat (someone)

**Scandalous**-causing general public outrage by a perceived offense against morality or law

**Mutulu**-Mutulu Shakur (born Jeral Wayne Williams; August 8, 1950) is an American black nationalist and acupuncturist. ... He is currently incarcerated in the United States Penitentiary, Victorville, for conspiracy to aid bank expropriation, not the actual robbery. He was stepfather to the late rap artist Tupac Shakur.

**Mandela**-Nelson Mandela was a leading member of the African National Congress (ANC), which opposed South Africa's white minority government and its policy of racial separation, known as apartheid. The government outlawed the ANC in 1960.

**Verdict**-a decision on a disputed issue in a civil or criminal case or an inquest

**Sudoku**-a puzzle in which players insert the numbers one to nine into a grid consisting of nine squares subdivided into a further nine smaller squares in such a way that every number appears once in each horizontal line, vertical line, and square.

**Hospice**-a home providing care for the sick, especially the terminally ill

**Venom**-full of malice or spite

**Peers**- those deemed on the same level

**Unconditional**-not subject to any conditions

**Burden**-a load, especially a heavy one

**Psychotic**-of, denoting, or suffering from a psychosis

**Coroner**-an official who investigates violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths

**Corpse**-a dead body, especially of a human being rather than an animal

**Poverty**-the state of being extremely poor

**Contemplated**-look thoughtfully for a long time at

**Mansion**-a large, impressive house

**Pistol-a** small firearm designed to be held in one hand

**Tone-** Tone, in written composition, is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject. Every written piece comprises a central theme or subject matter. The manner in which a writer approaches this theme and subject is the tone. The tone can be formal, informal, serious, comic, sarcastic, sad, and cheerful or it may be any other existing attitudes.

**Exposition-**Exposition is a literary device used to introduce background information about events, settings, characters etc. to the audience or readers. The word comes from the Latin language and its literal meaning is “a showing forth.” Exposition is crucial to any story, for without it nothing makes sense-

**Plot Outline-** Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. There are five main elements in a plot outline. The first is the exposition or the introduction. This is known as the beginning of the story where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well. The second element of a plot is known as the rising action which occurs when a series of events build up to the conflict. The main characters are established by the time the rising action of a plot occurs and at the same time, events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension or crisis is encountered. The third element of a plot is known as the climax or the main point of the plot. This is the turning point of the story and is meant to be the moment of highest interest and emotion. The reader wonders what is going to happen next. The fourth element of a plot is known as falling action or the winding up of the story. Events and complications begin to resolve and the result of actions of the main characters are put forward. The last element of a plot is the resolution or the conclusion. It is the end of a story and ends with either a happy or a tragic ending.

**Falling Action-** This is part of the literary plot that occurs after the climax has reached a resolution.

**Dynamic Character-** A dynamic, or round, character is a major character in a work of fiction that encounters conflict and is changed by it. Dynamic characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or static, characters. This type of character undergoes the most changes

**Flat character-** A flat character is a minor character in a work of fiction that does not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. Also referred to as "two-dimensional characters" or "static characters," flat characters play a supporting role to the main character, which as a rule should be round.

**Compare-** This is a rhetorical strategy and method of organization in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or things.

**Contrast-** This is a rhetorical strategy and method of organization in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or things.

**Archetype-** a very typical example of a certain person or thing

**Meter-** Meter is a stressed and unstressed syllabic pattern in a verse or within the lines of a poem. Stressed syllables tend to be longer and unstressed shorter. In simple language, meter is a poetic device that serves as a linguistic sound pattern for the verses, as it gives poetry a rhythmical and melodious sound. For instance, if you read a poem loudly, and it produces regular sound patterns, then this poem would be a metered or measured poem. The study of different types of versification and meters is known as prosody.

**Theme-** Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly

**Conflict-** In literature, a conflict is a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces usually a protagonist and an antagonist.

**Rising Action-** The rising action of a plot is the series of events that build up and create tension and suspense

**Climax-** A climax is a moment of great intensity in the plot of a literary work, generally bringing events to a head and leading to the conclusion

**Denouement-** In a narrative, the event or events following the climax; the resolution or clarification of the plot. When discussing fictitious writing, the denouement refers to the resolution of the complications of a plot in a work of fiction, generally done in a final chapter or section (often in the epilogue). The denouement generally follows the climax, except in mystery novels, in which the denouement and the climax may occur at the same time.

**Static Character-** Static characters are minor characters in a work that do not undergo substantial change or growth in the course of a story. Also referred to as “two-dimensional characters” or “flat characters,” they play a supporting role to the main character, which as a rule should be round, or complex.

**Round Character-** A round character is a major character in a work of who encounters conflict and is changed by it. Round characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or

**Characterization-** Characterization is a literary device that is used step by step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage where the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence and then following the introduction of the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then as the story progresses, the thought-process of the character. The next stage involves the character expressing his opinions and ideas and getting into conversations with the rest of the characters. The final part shows how others in the story respond to the character’s personality.

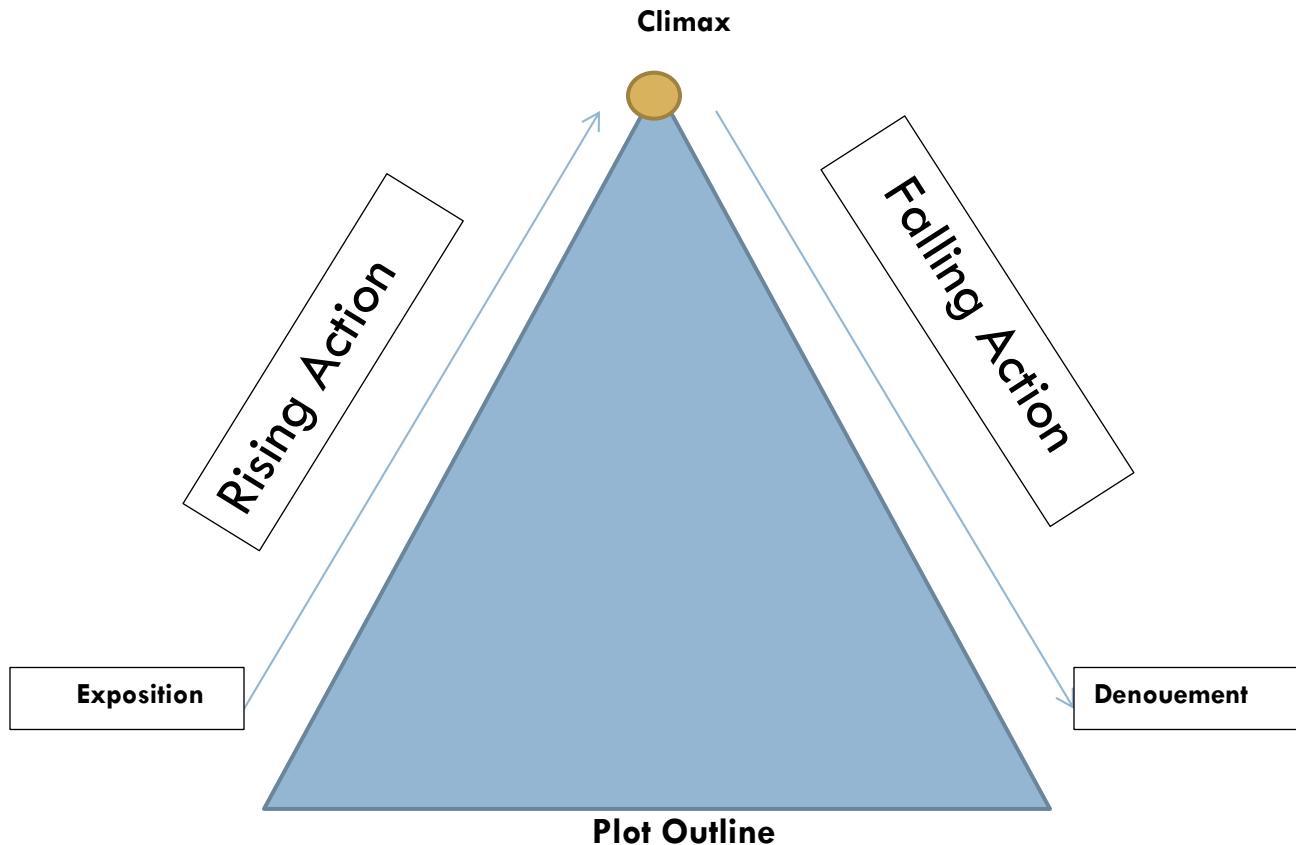
**Protagonist-** The protagonist is the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with. The antagonist opposes the protagonist. In the most archetypical narratives, this boils down to bad guy vs. good guy:

**Irony-Irony** is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated. In simple words, it is a difference between the appearance and the reality. There are three types of irony: verbal, situational and dramatic.

**Persona-** The term persona has derived from a Latin word “persona” that means the mask of an actor, and is therefore etymologically linked to the *dramatis personae* which refers to the list of characters and cast in a play or a drama. It is also known as a theatrical mask. It can be defined in a literary work as a voice or an assumed role of a character that represents the

# Higher Order Projects

**Task 2: Knowledge- Identify the plot outline for the play.**



## I Am From...

**Task 3:** The themes found in Tupac's work were greatly influenced by the violence and hardship in inner cities, racism, and other social problems. Write an "I AM From" poem which demonstrates your experiences with either inner city issues, racism or social problems. Note the example below.

I am from a single mother who works jobs to make ends meet

I am from a father I barely knew, marking my destiny to run the streets

I am from government cheese

And busted knees

from prayers to change my life

I'm from drug deals and overdosing on pills

I'm from wrongs that will always be right.

I'm from words that hurt me

Dreams that haunt me

And streets that hold me down

I'm from victory in pain

No struggle

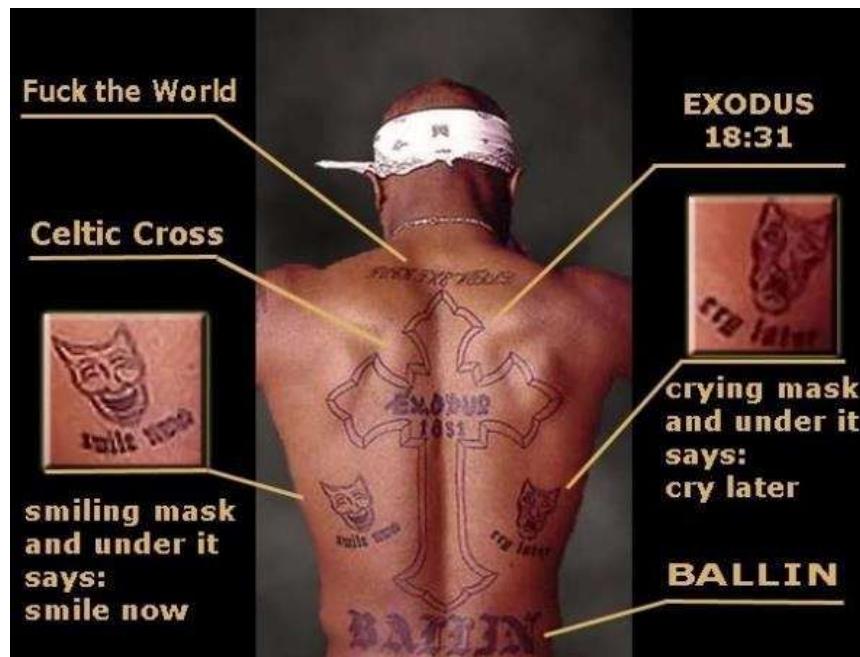
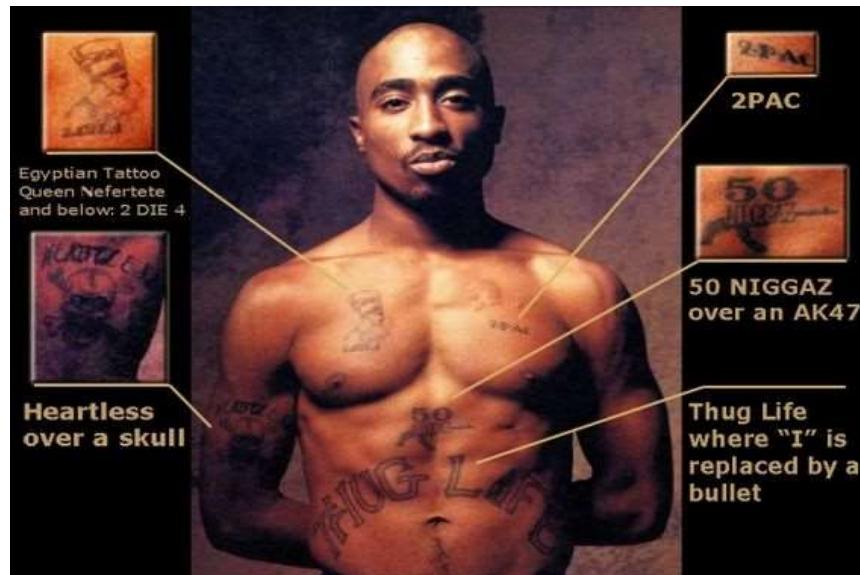
No gain

Survival is your only crown

I am from Fountain Heights

# Symbolism

**Task 4:** Tupac was known for his tattoos. Each was symbolic and represented his story. Research and identify the meanings behind each of his tattoos. Upon completion, either create or find images you would select to demonstrate your story of the struggles or triumphs in your life.



BOLDNESS

LAUGHTER

ABUNDANCE

RESPECT

**Task 5:** After reading the article, determine your position regarding the problems facing our solutions. Create an elevator speech which expresses a short-term resolution for resolving problems that plague our inner city.

## The Real Problem With America's Inner Cities

By ORLANDO PATTERSON MAY 9, 2015

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — THE recent unrest in Baltimore raises complex and confounding questions, and in response many people have attempted to define the problem solely in terms of insurgent American racism and violent police behavior.

But that is a gross oversimplification. America is not reverting to earlier racist patterns, and calling for a national conversation on race is a cliché that evades the real problem we now face: on one hand, a vicious tangle of concentrated poverty, disconnected youth and a culture of violence among a small but destructive minority in the inner cities; and, on the other hand, of out-of-control law-enforcement practices abetted by a police culture that prioritizes racial profiling and violent constraint.

First, we need a more realistic understanding of America's inner cities. They are socially and culturally heterogeneous, and a great majority of residents are law-abiding, God-fearing and often socially conservative.

According to recent surveys, between 20 and 25 percent of their permanent residents are middle class; roughly 60 percent are solidly working class or working poor who labor incredibly hard, advocate fundamental American values and aspire to the American dream for their children. Their youth share their parents' values, expend considerable social energy avoiding the

In all inner-city neighborhoods, however, there is a problem minority that varies between about 12.1 percent (in San Diego, for example) and 28 percent (in Phoenix) that comes largely from the disconnected youth between ages 16 and 24. Most are not in school and are chronically out of work, though their numbers are supplemented by working- and middle-class dropouts. With few skills and a contempt for low-wage jobs, they subsist through the underground economy of illicit trading and crime. Many belong to gangs.

Their street or thug culture is real, with a configuration of norms, values and habits that are, disturbingly, rooted in a ghetto brand of core American mainstream values: hypermasculinity, the aggressive assertion and defense of respect, extreme individualism, materialism and a reverence for the gun, all inflected with a threatening vision of blackness openly embraced as the thug life.

Such street culture is simply the black urban version of one of America's most iconic traditions: the Wild West. America's first gangsta thugs were Billy the Kid and Jesse James. In the youth thug cultures of both the Wild West and the inner cities, America sees inverted images of its own most iconic values, one through rose-tinted glass, the other through a glass, darkly.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/opinion/sunday/the-real-problem-with-americas-inner-cities.html? \\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/opinion/sunday/the-real-problem-with-americas-inner-cities.html?_r=0)

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