

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***Long Day's Journey Into Night* by Eugene O'Neill**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Tyrone household is plagued with dysfunction, and the family members find it ever so difficult to exist together in their summer vacation home. As the title implies, the action of the play takes place over a very short period of time during which James and Mary Tyrone attempt to face their demons of alcoholism and drug addiction while their children, James, Jr., and Edmund, deal with alcoholism and consumption respectively. Set in 1912, this play in four acts models the contemporary dysfunctional family but recognizes that times have not changed all that much. The human condition is such that what undermines society in 1912 still undermines the society of the twenty-first century.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 4: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Question: "How can reading reveal universal truths about the human experience?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. W.12.4
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. RL.12.1
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.12.11
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.12.12
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. SL.12.6
- Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. SL.12.8

Updated Spring 2021

**based on BV School District Curriculum adopted Fall 2020*