

The background is a light-colored wooden desk. On the left, there is a brown notebook with a white page. On the right, there is a spiral-bound notebook with a yellow cover and a blue spiral binding. A yellow pencil with a red eraser and a sharpened lead tip lies horizontally at the bottom of the page. A small pile of yellow pencil shavings is on the left side of the desk. The main area of the page is a large, white, lined notebook page.

# Comparative Literature 1





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



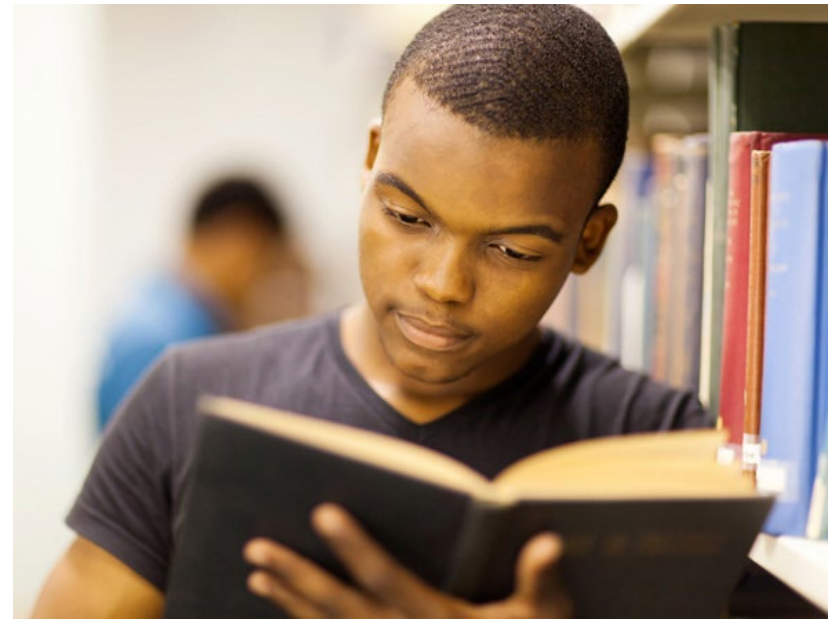
This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

## College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Think of your favorite book. Have any movies or TV shows been based on it? What about plays, fan art, songs or graphic novels?

All of these things are **interpretations** of the original book, or **source text**.



Studying various interpretations can help us consider the source text from different angles. It may even reveal themes or ideas that were not clear initially.



# Ariel in *The Tempest*



# Interpreting Ariel



All forms of literature will be interpreted differently by each reader. However, plays are different from poetry or prose because they are written to be performed.

**Stage directions** are the playwright's instructions to the director and actors as to how the play should be presented. These directions can help reveal the playwright's intentions.

Stage directions often describe the set, costuming, props, lighting, line delivery or any other aspect of the drama that the playwright wishes to influence.

Look at a play that you have studied. How does the playwright use stage directions to influence performance?



In this monologue from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo sees Juliet standing on her balcony. Read the text and discuss how Shakespeare presents Romeo's reaction.

## ROMEO

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief,  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:  
Be not her maid, since she is envious;  
Her vestal livery is but sick and green  
And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.  
It is my lady, O, it is my love!  
O, that she knew she were!





# Interpreting Romeo





# A Streetcar Named Desire



# Analyzing the play in performance



# Costumes and props



Williams' detailed stage directions have an almost narrative-like quality in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Williams uses stage directions to try to influence the mood of the play in performance.

Now that you have analyzed the set, lighting and costuming in Indigo Productions' version of *Streetcar*, compare these images with clips from the popular 1951 film version of the play.

What similarities do you notice between these two versions? How have the productions interpreted Williams' stage directions differently?





1. Choose a book that you have read that has been made into a movie. Write an essay comparing how the book and film develop the main message or theme. How do they achieve their goal? Are they equally successful?

2. Analyze two different movie versions of the same story. How are the interpretations different? How are they similar? What is the overall impact of each movie?

3. Compare a play that you have seen performed live with a movie version of the play. How do the different mediums alter the mood of the story? How do they affect you differently as the audience?

