

AUGUST WILSON... IN HIS OWN WORDS

“ I wanted to present the unique particulars of black American culture as the transformation of impulse and sensibility into codes of conduct and response, into cultural rituals that defined and celebrated ourselves as men and women of high purpose. I wanted to place this culture on stage in all of its richness and fullness and to demonstrate its ability to sustain us in all areas of human life and endeavor and through profound moments of our history in which the larger society has thought less of us than we have thought of ourselves.”

August Wilson

August Wilson

TEACHING AUGUST WILSON

AN INTERACTIVE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

BY THE AUGUST WILSON EDUCATION PROJECT



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American
MASTERS



THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS
HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT • VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

MA
RAINEY'S
BLACK
BOTTOM

SEVEN GUITARS

RADIO
GOLF

JITNEY

GEM
OF THE
OCEAN

KING HEDLEY II

JOE TURNER'S **FENCES**

COME AND GONE TWO TRAINS RUNNING

THE PIANO LESSON

10 PLAYS

2 PULITZER PRIZES

20 YEARS

1 DEFINITIVE DOCUMENTARY

Common Core Standards

The themes and topics presented in August Wilson's plays offer rich, timeless lessons in American history through the medium of dramatic literature. The issues Wilson raises are also highly relevant today. **His body of work, the documentary *August Wilson: The Ground On Which I Stand*, and the discussions and activities featured in this guide can all address key state education standards in English/Language Arts, History, and Drama/Theater.**

In Common Core states and non-Common Core states, some relevant 9th - 12th grade standards include those related to:

Historical & Cultural Contexts for Arts and Humanities

Critical Response

Aesthetic Response

Reading, Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

Characteristics & Function of the English Language

Historical Analysis & Skills Development

United States History

Literary Elements & Devices

Dialogue, Character, & Plot Development

Principles and Ideals of Civic & Political Life

Cultural Change

Interpretation of Historical Events

Ethnic & Racial Relations



THEATRE



LANGUAGE
ARTS



HISTORY