



- 3) **Select the 3 photographs** that best suggest ideas for your design. Asterisk ( \* ) these above.
- 4) **Add the photos to your project.**
- 5) **Annotate and explain** how these three photographs would suggest design elements or otherwise connect to the Wilson play you have chosen, and how they improve your understanding of the play. Conversely, how does your understanding of the play give you context for the photos? Write a brief paragraph for each photograph.

### **WILSON'S PLAYS AND THE IDEA OF "COMMUNITY"**

August Wilson's plays present characters within a particular community. Most of his plays take place in the historic Hill District neighborhood of Pittsburgh, a predominately African American community during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Wilson's plays are set. As you study one or more of Wilson's plays, explore ideas about how people, places, and events shape a community. How does community relate to someone's sense of place? How can communities change over time?

Visit <http://teenie.cmoa.org>. Select photos that you feel convey the idea of community and/or a sense of place, and that relate to Wilson's play.

Consider how each photograph you select conveys the idea of community. What are the elements that make up a community? In what ways did Teenie Harris accomplish this visually? Make a list of observations and ideas.

As you deepen your thinking about community represented by the photographs, consider these questions as well:

What defines as community?

Can someone be part of more than one community?

Do you see people or events that combine communities?

What are the people, places, and events that come together to create those communities?

Using information gleaned about African Americans in Pittsburgh from Teenie Harris, discuss how "community" factors into Wilson's *plays*.

## NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY?

How do the physical and virtual communities you belong to relate to your identity? How do you shape those places—and how do they shape you? Use photography to document a shared community, such as your town or school. Discuss how you might use the techniques explored through Teenie Harris' work for new photographs of your own.

What would the set of a play from your house or backyard look like? **Take a picture of the back of your house or apartment.** Or use a picture taken previously—maybe from your childhood. Or draw a sketch of the set that would look like the “backyard” you’d use to tell your story. Then write a paragraph that highlights key items, elements, or aspects of the story that would be told there. Like Wilson’s characters often discuss aspects of place that go beyond the physical spaces, you may consider allegorical or mythological ideas in your description of your space. What would be the theme of a drama based on your house?

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