*Fences* reading questions Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Act I, Scene 1

1. Conclude how this scene challenges gender roles or reinforces gender roles.
2. In what ways is racism clearly shown in this scene?
3. To what extent has baseball shaped Troy and his life?
4. Investigate how death is personified in this scene (particularly by Troy).
5. Describe Lyons and his relationship with his father, Troy.

Act I, Scene 2

1. Describe Gabriel and his role in the play.

Act I, Scene 3

1. Determine why Troy is so hard on his children.
2. Conclude the reason for Troy constantly declaring, “I’m the boss…” (36).
3. Troy tells Cory, “The white man ain’t gonna let you get nowhere with that football noway…get you a trade…You go on and learn how to put your hands to some good use” (35). Evaluate whether Troy not wanting Cory to play football is selfish or self-less (determine if he is protecting Cory or protecting his own pride at being a failed baseball player).

Act I, Scene 4

1. Troy claims that Cory is “walking around here smelling his piss…thinking he’s grown. Thinking he’s gonna do what he want, irrespective of what I say” (49). Determine if Troy is protecting Cory or is jealous of Cory.
2. Describe Troy’s relationship with his father, and determine how that relationship impacted the relationship he has with Lyons and Cory.
3. Describe Troy’s life and history before Rose.
4. After Troy bans Cory from playing football, Cory claims, “Just cause you didn’t have a chance? You just scared I’m gonna be better than you, that’s all” (58). Evaluate the truth of this statement.

Act II, Scene 1

1. Analyze Bono’s comment to Troy: “Some people build fences to keep people out…and other people build fences to keep people in. Rose wants to hold on to you all. She loves you” (61).
2. When discussing Alberta (Troy’s mistress), Troy says, “I love Rose. She done carried me a long ways and I love and respect her for that” (63). To what extent does Troy respect Rose?
3. Explain what Rose meant when she said, “I ain’t never wanted no half nothing in my family. My whole family is half” (68).
4. Investigate the meaning of Troy saying, “She give me a different idea…a different understanding about myself” (68).
5. Determine how Troy rationalizes having an affair. What does he say to Rose to defend his cheating? Explain how he uses baseball as a metaphor for his affair.

Act II, Scene 2

1. To what extent is Troy justified in saying to Rose, “Just give me some space. That’s all. Just give me some room to breathe” (77).
2. Explain Troy’s ‘conversation’ with Mr. Death (77).

Act II, Scene 3

1. Why does Rose allow Troy to bring his baby into their life/home?

Act II, Scene 4

1. Describe the change in the family dynamic at the start of this scene.
2. Describe the change in Troy and Bono’s friendship.
3. Explain Cory’s comment: “ I ain’t got to say excuse me to you. You don’t count around here no more” (85).
4. Analyze the conversation between Troy and Cory (pages 86-89). What lead to this moment? What realization does Troy have after the fight over the baseball bat?

Act II, Scene 5

1. What has happened to the family members since the end of scene 4?
2. What is Cory’s explanation for not attending Troy’s funeral? Determine if he is justified in his decision and reasoning.
3. Determine the lasting effect Troy has had on his children, especially Cory.
4. How does Rose describe her marriage and life with Troy? What does she say about herself?
5. Analyze: “There is a weight of impossible description that falls away and leaves him bare and exposed to a frightful realization” (101).

Final Reflection: To what extent does that past shape ones identity?

Film Reflection: Compare and contrast the film and play versions of *Fences* (using specific examples from the film and play…paraphrasing is acceptable this time)