11th Grade | 2018

Honors American Literature

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Honors American Literature!

For your summer reading assignment, I have chosen several pieces that all center around the civil war, which we will use as a launching pad into the rest of the semester. Each classical piece has complex characters and stories that have stood the test of time and are still relevant to current issues in our world today.

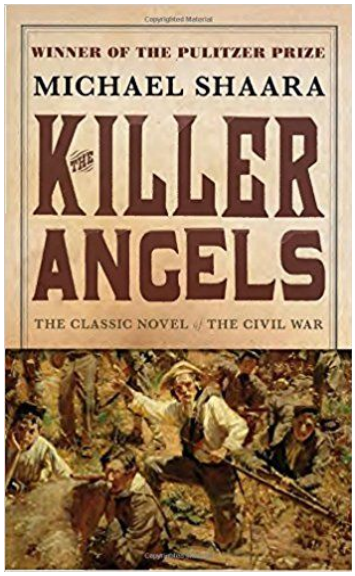
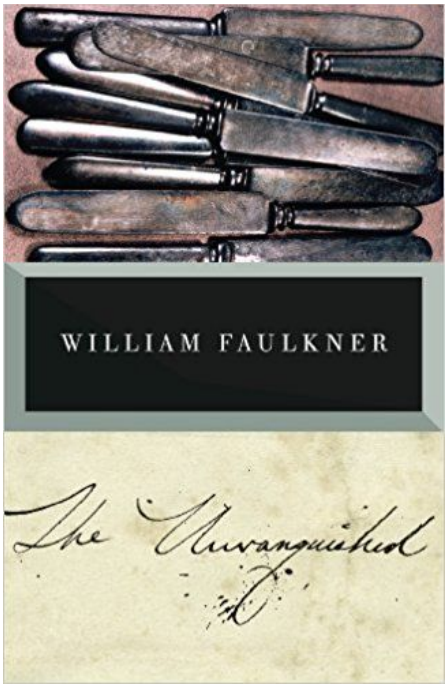
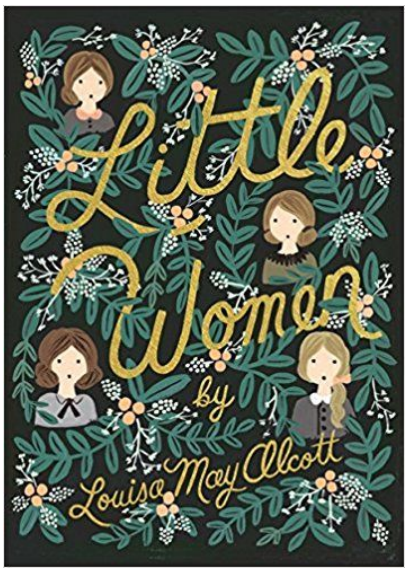
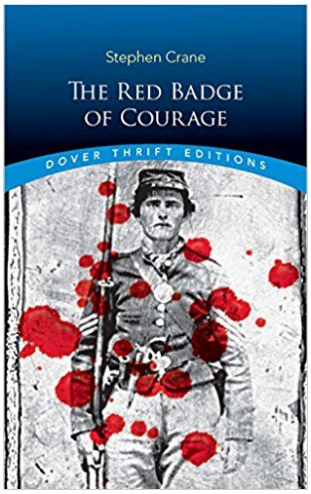
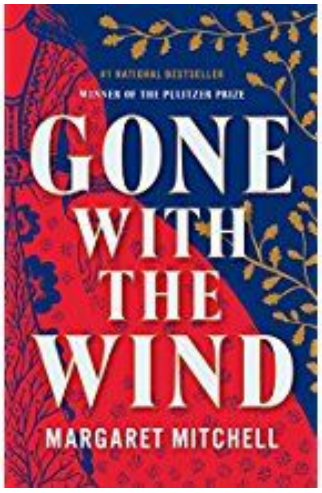
I love these pieces for different reasons, so my hope is that after reading two of these pieces, you, too, will have found a new story, characters, and/or themes with which you connect.

Note: While re-reading a text has its place, please do not re-read a book that you have already read. There are too many wonderful books out there! If for some reason you have already read all of the options, please connect with me, and I am more than willing to consider other options.

I look forward to seeing you in August!

Mrs. Christy Mullis
christy.mullis@fcspaladins.org

Choose **two** of the following novels to read:

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<td>Any novel in the
Civil War Trilogy
by Jeff Shaara
1. Gods and Generals
2. Last Full Measure
3. Killer Angels</td>
<td>The Unvanquished
by William Faulkner</td>
<td>Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott</td>
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<td rowspan="2">You may purchase any version of the book that you like. The only exception is that you must read the full version of the text, not an abridged version.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Red Badge of Courage
by Stephen Crane</td>
<td>Gone with the Wind
by Margaret Mitchell</td>
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Your assignment is to simply READ the book that you have chosen.

During the first several days of school, you will be assessed in the following ways:

1. **Formal discussion**--Discussions are an opportunity for you to share intriguing elements of your book with your classmates and your teacher. You should be prepared to answer questions such as:
    a. How have your insights changed since reading the books?
    b. How did the characters change from start to finish?
    c. What was especially challenging about these books?
    d. What did these stories teach you about yourself and/or others?

    Keep in mind that there will be other questions; these are only examples.
2. **Written assessment** in timed essay format (major grade), which will require specific, textual evidence to support your answer.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Reading is exercise for your brain. Please read each text closely and to the best of your ability.
2. Please only use study guides such as LitCharts or SparkNotes as a guide for clarification rather than a replacement for the actual book itself. If you are struggling with your books, my recommendation is to read a chapter summary and then read the actual chapter.
3. You may listen to an audiobook version of the texts as long as you are following along with the written version as well.
4. There are fantastic movie versions of these novels; however, they are not a replacement for the text. I encourage students to watch the movie after reading the text.

For many readers, marking the text as they read is extremely helpful. However, it is not a requirement for this assignment.

If you choose to annotate as you read, here are some suggestions:

•When you read, highlight, underline, place symbols that will emphasis important literary components like characterization, setting, theme, turning points in the plot, etc.
•Star (☆) important ideas as you come across them in the text.
•Use a colored pen that will contrast with the black ink on the page.
•Use a bright highlighter minimally to only mark the most important portions of a chapter. The colors will serve as visual clues on the page that you will remember when you refer back and study.
•Place [brackets] around longer texts that would take too long to underline and make a note [📝] in the margin. Make many personal notes in the margin.
•Make a list of all the characters on the back of the front cover.
•Write down questions ❓ in the margin next to passages that you do not understand [place a flag 🚩 next to those portions of text, also].
•Make a list of key ideas on the inside of the back cover. Things like, timelines of events, changes in a character, ideas that you agree with or disagree with, and any personal responses that seem significant to you.