

11th Grade | 2022

American Literature

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to American Literature!

For your summer reading assignment, I have chosen a diverse list of American Literature pieces/authors, each with 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 one of these pieces, you, too, will have found a new story, characters, and/or themes with which you connect.

Two notes:

1. There is a range of maturity and content in the provided list, so make this choice as a family and email me with any questions. If there is another text you are interested in reading that is not on this list, please contact [me](#) for approval. I will more than likely say yes.
2. 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 (joanna.schuerman@fcspaladins.org), and I am more than willing to consider other options.

I look forward to seeing you in August!

Mrs. Schuerman

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

Note: There is a range of maturity and content in the provided list, so make this choice as a family and email me with any questions. If there is another text you are interested in reading that is not on this list, please contact [me](#) for approval. I will more than likely say yes.

Any text (these are nonfiction) by Malcolm Gladwell

Killer Angels (or anything in this series) by Michael Shaara

The Unvanquished by William Faulkner

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Moon is Down by John Steinbeck

Unbroken by Lauren Hillenbrand

Seabiscuit by Lauren Hillenbrand

The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper

The Help by Kathryn Sockett

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

One Gallant Rush by Peter Burchard

Your assignment is to simply READ and think about the books that you have chosen.

During the first several days of school, students may be assessed in the following ways:

1. **Book talk**--Presentations are an opportunity for you to share intriguing elements of your books 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 this 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 (minor 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 the 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 books themselves. 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 some fantastic movie versions of these books; however, they are not a replacement for the text. I encourage students to watch the movie *after* reading the texts.

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 emphasize 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.