

American Literature: 11th Grade Honors Summer Assignment

Congratulations Class of 2024! Summer is finally here! As you use this time to relax and engage in the hobbies and activities that you love, carve out some time each day to read great literature. I've compiled a book list where you will have a **choice** of a fiction **and** two nonfiction books. Choose something that you've never read before that will challenge and engage you.

Three books total!

*Then, complete the handwritten assignment below.

What will I be reading this summer?

Choose three books: **one fiction** and **two nonfiction** books.

2022 List of Required Readings:

Fiction: Each author's work represents challenges faced in American culture.

- *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton
- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
- *O Pioneers!* By Willa Cather
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

~AND~

Choose two Nonfiction books: These will focus on some of the issues represented in the fiction books. Try to pair them so you can discuss the theme represented in both.

- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder (*The book is nothing like the movie!)
- *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

Assignment #1: Keep a journal for each text.

A. **For the fictional novel.** Record the following:

- key plot events
- Narrative point of view
- Conflicts
- Characters involved and their relationship with each other; their personality traits; how does the character change throughout the story.
- Two themes that the author develops.
- Literary devices, such as characterization, symbolism, setting, point of view, motif, irony, imagery, irony, etc. (There's many, many more so show what you know).
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance of each quotation.

B. **For the non-fiction book.**

- Summarize any major points the author makes.
- Select and record ten quotations from the text and explain the significance to the major points.
- Indicate what issue the non-fiction book addresses and try to make connections to either another text or to issues you hear in the news.

Assignment #2: After you complete your handwritten journal, write a one-page composition (300-500 word essay) with a thoughtful response about what you've read on a Google Doc (12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced with the heading). **Please do not summarize the text in your**

writing composition. You may take a personal, creative, or academic approach in your response but it's important to demonstrate the thinking you did while you read.

How will this be used in the Fall?

Your written response and your ability to discuss it in class will be one of the first impressions your new English teacher will have of you. More details will be provided in the first week of class.

****Every student is expected to complete these assignments and they will be due at the end of the first week of school.****

Note: Here are some local places to buy your books besides ordering it online.

- **Barnes & Noble bookstore** (on 7th Ave. & 6th Street)
- **Greenlight Bookstore** in Fort Greene
- **The Community Bookstore**, 143 7th Avenue.
- **Books are Magic**, 225 Smith Street, Brooklyn
- **The Strand Bookstore**, the corner of 12th Street and Broadway in Manhattan. This is the most iconic bookstore in New York City and it's completely worth the trip. Be prepared to get a bit lost in there and declare a meeting time/place before you wander. Many of the books on the shelves are used and you can get them cheaper than the newer ones on the tables too.

Now, find a great spot to read outdoors! My favorite places to read are the Brooklyn Bridge Park in DUMBO, the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, and,

of course, Prospect Park. In Queens, I love the Socrates Sculpture Park to read a book and catch a free performance offered by the city. Enjoy!