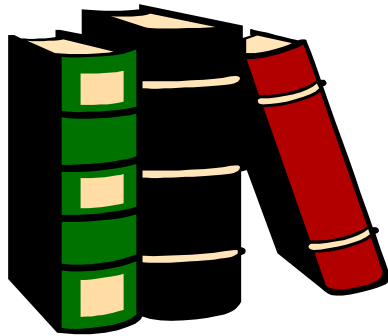


AMERICAN LITERATURE



SUMMER READING

DIRECTIONS

This booklist is a compilation of lists of recommended reading for college bound students. The titles, representing American literature throughout the years, are here to assist in choosing reading which will enhance your background prior to your senior American Literature course next year.

Each student is asked to read the following book:

Steinbeck, John.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH.

Moving from the desolation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930's, the Joad family soon finds their struggle for survival as California migrants replacing hope.

A reading log is required. Directions are attached to this booklet. They may also be found on Sister Mary Annette Dworshak's SharePoint site. : <https://hna.holynames-sea.org/Dworshak>

The theme and story lines will be utilized for discussion and writing during the opening days of school in the Fall.

In addition, each student is required to read one more title from the list. This title is the student's choice.

An annotated listing may be found on the Holy Names Academy website by clicking on [Academics](#) and then on [Reading Lists](#) on the sidebar.

URL: <http://www.holynames-sea.org>

NOVELS

Achebe, Chinua.

ARROW OF GOD.

Age-old tribal customs come into conflict with western ways in Nigeria in the 1920s.

Allende, Isabel.

HOUSE OF SPIRITS.

The epic tale of a South American family in which Clara, the main character, uses her telepathic abilities to tell fortunes, forecast the future and move objects.

Baldwin, James.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN.

Fourteen-year-old John struggles against the sins of his forefathers and the sensuous evils of Harlem to attain a religious conversion, a sign of man's battle for peace.

Borland, Hal G.

WHEN THE LEGENDS DIE.

Embittered by the white man's deceptions, Thomas Black Bull punishes the rodeo horses he rides until a crushing accident sends him back to his mountain homeland.

Campbell, Bebe.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

An African American woman is forced to choose between commitment to a white friend and loyalty to a person of her own ethnicity.

Cather, Willa.

MY ANTONIA.

A New York lawyer recalls his Nebraska boyhood days and his friend, Antonia Shimerda, in this picture of the pioneer west.

Conde, Maryse.

I, TITUBA, BLACK WITCH OF SALEM.

As a child in Barbados, Tituba sees her mother executed and is subsequently raised by an old woman who teaches her the art of healing and talking with spirits. Later Tituba is sold to a Puritan minister and taken to Salem where her talents come under question.

Crane, Stephen.

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE.

An innocent country boy, a soldier at Chancellorsville, must cope with the indifferent horrors of war.

Danticat, Edwidge.

BREATH, EYES AND MEMORY.

Twelve-year-old Sophie Caco has been raised by a grandmother in impoverished Haiti. She now joins her mother in New York where she discovers secrets and finds a legacy of shame which can only be healed by a journey back to Haiti where she finds solace and understanding in the traditions and wisdom of her people.

Diamant, Anita.

THE RED TENT.

Set during Old Testament times, this is Dinah's story. As Jacob's daughter she has four mothers: Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah. They prepare her for a future in a foreign land.

Ehrenreich, Barbara.

NICKLED AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA.

Determined to understand how anyone can live on \$6—\$7.00 an hour, the author accepts low paying jobs in various settings only to discover the mental and physical exhaustion that low income wage earners experience.

Faulkner, William.

AS I LAY DYING.

Addie, the family matriarch, has died and is being taken to her desired burial site. As the Burdens travel, each family member tells a story.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott.

THE GREAT GATSBY.

From an obscure past to a pathetic, short-lived success ending in death, Gatsby flashed through the superficial high life of the Roaring Twenties.

Gaines, Ernest.

LESSON BEFORE DYING.

A young black man is convicted and sentenced to death for murder. Minimally educated, his mother hires the town's teacher to help educate the young man before he is led to death. Both men are deeply changed during the sessions.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE.

The Latin American village of Mancondo has its story told with magical realism. The lives of the Buendia family are filled with love gained and lost and dreams are made and shattered within the setting of civil war.

Goldman, Arthur.

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA.

Nitta Sayuri is sold into slavery where she learns the art of being a geisha. The outbreak of World War II brings a rare opportunity to change her future.

Guterson, David.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS.

Set on an island in Puget Sound, this is the story of Kabuo Miyamota, a Japanese American who is charged with the murder of a local fisherman.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel.

THE SCARLET LETTER.

Hester Prynne is forced to wear a scarlet letter "A" as a symbol of the sin she has committed in this story set in New England during the seventeenth century.

Heller, Joseph.

CATCH-22.

Captain Yossarian frantically attempts to stay alive despite endless bombing raids in this broad comedy confronting the hypocrisy of war and mass society.

Kingsolver, Barbara.

THE POISONWOOD BIBLE.

Nathan Price, an evangelical minister, takes his wife and four daughters to the Congo where they experience the native war for independence in a complex culture and where they each respond with varying degrees of success.

Kogawa, Joy.

OBASAN.

Naomi Makana, a child of Japanese immigrant parents, is interned by the Canadians at the beginning of World War II when she is five years old.

Malamud, Bernard.

THE FIXER.

Victim of a vicious anti-Semitic conspiracy and unjustly sent to a Russian prison, Yakov molifies the dignity and relentless suffering of humankind.

McCarthy, Cormac.

ALL THE PRETTY HORSES.

This first volume of the BORDER TRILOGY follows John Grady Cole whose dreams of ranching are ended, so he joins two others on a trip to Mexico where he finds love and adventure.

McCullers, Carson.

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER.

Deaf-mute John Singer becomes the talisman for the dreams and yearnings of four people in a small southern town.

Melville, Herman.

BILLY BUDD.

At sea, Billy is loved by all except the Master at Arms, who looks for a way to accuse him of treason during a threatened mutiny.

Morrison, Toni.

BELOVED.

Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep an intruder, Beloved, from gaining possession of her present.

Morrison, Toni.

SONG OF SOLOMON.

Malcolm Dead, Jr., the son of the richest black family in the Midwest, leaves home on a quest for personal freedom.

Naylor, Gloria.

THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE.

This series of vignettes focusing on seven black women who are residents of Brewster Place, shows how their reaction to certain situations is affected by their background, age, dreams, and problems.

Silko, Leslie

CEREMONY.

Tayo, a young Native American, is released from a veterans' hospital following World War II and sets out to search for meaning and sanity in his life.

Tan, Joy.

THE BONESETTER'S DAUGHTER.

Ruth Young, a ghostwriter, seeks understanding of her mother who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. She finds it as she reads her mother's writings and learns of her China experiences and the caves with the bones of the ancient Peking Man.

Walker, Alice.

THE COLOR PURPLE.

Walker tells the story of two sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the South, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God".

Warren, Robert Penn.

ALL THE KING'S MEN.

Willie Stark, a southern politician, builds support among the common man while playing dirty politics in the back room and sheds his idealism. Jack Burden, his right-hand man, meanwhile retains it and becomes Starks nemesis. Stark eventually pays a high price with his life.

Wharton, Edith.

ETHAN FROME.

A bitter, stark story shows people trapped in a marriage from which love is long since gone.

Wright, Richard.

NATIVE SON.

Bigger Thomas, a black man accused of a crime in the white man's world, has no hope against overwhelming circumstances.

DRAMA

Hansberry, Lorraine.

A RAISIN IN THE SUN.

The Youngers' family longs to escape their crowded Chicago apartment. A \$10,000 insurance check arrives as do the differing desires leading to conflict and racial injustice.

Miller, Arthur.

THE CRUCIBLE.

This drama is set in seventeenth century Salem colonial times, where non-conformist John Proctor is hounded to death during the witchcraft trials.

Wilder, Thornton.

OUR TOWN.

Our Town is Every Town where simple events of human life are spread over three periods of history in a small New Hampshire area.

Williams, Tennessee.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE.

Quiet, shy Laura dusts and arranges her small glass animals. Her mother watches movies and berates her son, Tom, as he works and stays away most of the time. Set in the Depression, this play looks at how a family finds escape during hard times.

Wilson, August.

FENCES.

Troy Maxson, a strong, hard man, who learned how to be a proud Black man in the 1950s, finds the changing spirit of the 1960s difficult to accept.

BIOGRAPHIES

SHORT STORIES

Alexie, Sherman.

LONE RANGER AND TONTO FISTFIGHT IN HEAVEN.

Victor lives on the Spokane Indian Reservation and wonders whether his ancestors view the current conditions of the tribe with sympathy or disgust.

O'Connor, Flannery.

A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND.

Ten stories are set in the Deep South with such topics as racial attitudes, poverty and riches, adolescence, and being old.

Welty, Eudora.

COLLECTED STORIES OF EUDORA WELTY.

The author, a native of Mississippi, bases her stories on the long familiarity with the thoughts and feelings of the ordinary people around her.

Albom, Mitch.

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE.

When Morrie Schwatz, a Brandeis University professor, learns he has Lou Gehrig's disease, Mitch Albom begins his regular visits resulting in a deep rich friendship

Angelou, Maya.

THE HEART OF A WOMAN.

This fourth autobiographical work by Maya Angelou tells of her entry into New York's circle of black artists and writers, her involvement in the civil rights movement, and changes in her personal life.

Dorris, Michael.

THE BROKEN CORD.

The author, an anthropologist, adopts a young Native American child. Their lives become unsettled as the child experiences seizures and other learning disabilities. The diagnosis is fetal alcohol syndrome.

Hayslip, Ly

WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES.

The author remembers growing up in Vietnam where she experienced civil war, the French occupation and the 'American' war.

Hurston, Zora Neale

DUST TRACKS ON THE ROAD.

The African American author tells about her rise to a place of prominence among American writers.

Kingston, Maxine M.

THE WOMAN WARRIOR: MEMOIRS OF A GIRLHOOD AMONG GHOSTS.

Kingston relates the Chinese-American experience of being torn between American life in modern San Francisco and the ancient legends, traditions, and folk beliefs of her heritage.

Malcolm X.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X.

Written with brutal honesty, this memoir tells of the author's transformation from a bitter self-destructive petty criminal into an articulate political activist.

Mathabane, Mark and Gail.

LOVE IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Mark, a native of South Africa, marries Gail in the United States. In this book both explore the complexities of their courtship, marriage and the raising of children.

Moody, Anne

COMING OF AGE IN MISSISSIPPI.

Moody tells the personal story of a young black woman growing up in Mississippi in the forties and fifties who survived with pride and courage intact.

Rodriguez, Richard.

HUNGER OF MEMORY.

The author, a Mexican American immigrant, writes of feelings of alienation from his family and culture as he learned English in order to fit into the American way.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady

IN HER OWN RIGHT: THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

by Griffith, Elisabeth.

Griffith gives a well-documented portrayal of the public and private life of this nineteenth century leader of the women's suffrage movement.