

# 11th/12th Summer Reading (American Literature) 2019-2020

May 2019

Because the English teachers at Grace Christian School are committed to a strong reading program for our students, we assign classic literature throughout the year that is specifically selected to coincide with some of other disciplines such as history, geography, and vocabulary. To further our vision for strong readers, we believe in continuing reading expectations for the summer in preparation for life in general and specifically for success in high school, pre-college testing, and college itself.

In the next week or so, the summer reading lists can be accessed from our website - [www.gcswarriors.org](http://www.gcswarriors.org) - **under Academics → Summer Resources for Students**. The summer reading assignments will count as a test grades in the first quarter of the following school year. When choosing books from the list, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- **All summer reading books must not have been read prior to this summer.**
- **Students must be sure they have acquired the original, complete versions of their chosen novels; the English department will not accept abridged or condensed versions.**

Students in **11th/12th Regular and Honors English** must read two books chosen from the attached lists; one book from the English reading list and one book from the social studies-science reading list. Students must also complete either the fiction or nonfiction report required for each book. (Templates for reports are located at the end of 11th/12th book list). These reports will be graded on quality of content. **AP English** students must also read two books, one required book and one book from the social studies-science reading list. AP English students must also write an essay regarding the required book and complete a nonfiction report for the other book. (AP English essay prompts are located at the end of the 11/12th book list.) **Summer reading assignments will be due the first full day of English class.**

A parent and the student must sign the statement below and turn it in to the English teacher by the first full day of English class.

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I have read in full the following book(s) this summer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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### **The Purpose Behind Required Summer Reading at GCS**

The Grace Christian School summer reading program is an important aspect of our academic program, especially considering what studies reveal:

- The number of books read in summer is consistently related to academic gains.
- Significant vocabulary gains take place when students read in the summer.
- Significant fluency gains take place through summer reading programs.

When selecting books for our different grade-level summer reading lists, faculty and staff at GCS make choices based on historical and subject significance, literary merit, and the goal of fostering a life-long love for reading in all of our students. It is with these and the following thoughts in mind that we require reading over the summer:

- To provide the opportunity for students to keep literacy skills sharpened.
- To motivate students to read for pleasure while guiding them to make sound choices (using an approved book list which includes a mix of classic and contemporary options, as well as a variety of genres).
- To foster the correlation between reading and writing skills.
- To encourage our students to discover and develop a sense of ownership in their reading lives.

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### Summer Reading List

**\*Note: Some of the following books will not be acceptable for summer reading if you are in a certain English class which covers the novel. Check your schedule!**

#### ***Villette*, Bronte**

Lucy Snowe, the narrator of *Villette*, flees from an unhappy past in England to begin a new life as a teacher at a French boarding school in the great cosmopolitan capital of Villette. Soon Lucy's struggle for independence is overshadowed by both her friendship with a worldly English doctor and her feelings for an autocratic schoolmaster. Brontë's strikingly modern heroine must decide if there is any man in her society with whom she can live and still be free. **#19thcenturyEngland #romance #comingofage**

#### ***Bullfinch's Mythology*, Bullfinch (counts as two books)**

For almost a century and a half, *Bullfinch's Mythology* has been the text by which the great tales of the gods and goddesses, Greek and Roman antiquity; Scandinavian, Celtic, and Oriental fables and myths; and the age of chivalry have been known. The stories are divided into three sections: "The Age of Fable or Stories of Gods and Heroes" (first published in 1855); "The Age of Chivalry" (1858), which contains King Arthur and his knights, the Mabinogion, and the knights of English history; and "Legends of Charlemagne or Romance of the Middle Ages" (1863). For the Greek myths, Bullfinch drew on Ovid and Virgil, and for the sagas of the north, from Mallet's Northern Antiquities. He provides lively versions of the myths of Zeus and Hera, Venus and Adonis, Daphne and Apollo, and their cohorts on Mount Olympus; the love story of Pygmalion and Galatea; the legends of the Trojan War and the epic wanderings of Ulysses and Aeneas; the joys of Valhalla and the furies of Thor; and the tales of Beowulf and Robin Hood. **#Greekmythology #arthurianlegend #Norsemythology**

#### ***My Antonia*, Cather**

The story of Antonia Shimerda is told by one of her friends from childhood, Jim Burden, an orphaned boy from Virginia. Though he leaves the prairie, Jim never forgets the Bohemian girl who so profoundly influenced his life. An immigrant child of immigrant parents, Antonia's girlhood is spent working to help her parents wrest a living from the untamed land. Though in later years she suffers betrayal and desertion, through all the hardships of her life she preserves a valor of spirit that no hardship can daunt or break. When Jim Burden sees her again after many years, he finds her "a rich mine of life," a figure who has turned adversity into a particular kind of triumph in the true spirit of the pioneer. **#immigrantexperience #comingofage #Americannmidwest**

#### ***Don Quixote*, Cervantes (counts as two books)**

Don Quixote has become so entranced by reading chivalric romances, that he determines to become a knight-errant himself. In the company of his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, his exploits blossom in all sorts of wonderful ways. While Quixote's fancy often leads him astray – he tilts at windmills, imagining them to be giants – Sancho acquires cunning and a certain sagacity. Sane madman and wise fool, they roam the world together, and together they have haunted readers' imaginations for nearly four hundred years. With its experimental form and literary playfulness, *Don Quixote* generally has been recognized as the first modern novel. **#classicSpanishlit #epic #romantictragedy**

#### ***The Complete Father Brown Stories*, Chesterton**

Father Brown, one of the most quirkily genial and lovable characters to emerge from English detective fiction, first made his appearance in *The Innocence of Father Brown* in 1911. That first collection of stories established G.K. Chesterton's kindly cleric in the front rank of eccentric sleuths. This complete collection contains all the favourite Father Brown stories, showing a quiet wit and compassion that has endeared him to many, whilst solving his mysteries by a mixture of imagination and a sympathetic worldliness in a totally believable manner. This is a must-read for lovers of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie! **#mystery #British #christianity**

#### ***The Divine Comedy*, Dante (counts as two books)**

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Dante Alighieri's poetic masterpiece is a moving human drama, an unforgettable visionary journey through the infinite torment of Hell (Part 1: Inferno), up the arduous slopes of Purgatory (Part 2), and on to the glorious realm of Paradise (Part 3)—the sphere of universal harmony and eternal salvation. #classicallit #christianity #mythology #medievaltheology

### ***Bleak House, Dickens***

*Bleak House* is the story of a girl named Esther Summerson uncovering the truth about her parents, and in the process setting off a chain of events that includes murder, suicide, betrayal, love, and fear. On the other hand, the novel is also a profound discussion about the philosophy of charity and philanthropy. How much should we take care of the less fortunate? Are some more deserving of charity than others? Should the poor be dependent on the good will of private individuals, or does the state have some kind of responsibility for helping them? #VictorianEngland #familydrama #redemption #socialjustice

### ***Little Dorrit, Dickens***

When Arthur Clennam returns to England after many years abroad, he takes a kindly interest in Amy Dorrit, his mother's seamstress, and in the affairs of Amy's father, William Dorrit, a man of shabby grandeur, long imprisoned for debt in Marshalsea prison. As Arthur soon discovers, the dark shadow of the prison stretches far beyond its walls to affect the lives of many, from the kindly Mr. Panks, the reluctant rent-collector of Bleeding Heart Yard, and the tipsily garrulous Flora Finching, to Merdle, an unscrupulous financier, and the bureaucratic Barnacles in the Circumlocution Office. A masterly evocation of the state and psychology of imprisonment, *Little Dorrit* is one of the supreme works of Dickens' maturity. #socialjustice #redemption #familydrama #VictorianEngland

### ***Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Dillard***

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* is the story of a dramatic year Annie Dillard spends in Virginia's Roanoke Valley. What she sees are astonishing incidents of "beauty tangled in a rapture with violence." Her personal narrative highlights one year's exploration on foot in the Virginia region through which Tinker Creek runs. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek and contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall, she watches a monarch butterfly migration and dreams of Arctic caribou. The result is an exhilarating tale of nature and its seasons. #nonfiction #spiritualmemoir #christianity #nature

### ***Crime and Punishment, Dostoyevsky (counts as two books)***

The poverty-stricken Raskolnikov, a talented student, devises a theory about extraordinary men being above the law, since in their brilliance they think "new thoughts" and so contribute to society. He then sets out to prove his theory by murdering a vile, cynical old pawnbroker and her sister. The act brings Raskolnikov into contact with his own buried conscience and with two characters — the deeply religious Sonia, who has endured great suffering, and Porfiry, the intelligent and discerning official who is charged with investigating the murder — both of whom compel Raskolnikov to feel the split in his nature. Dostoyevsky provides readers with a suspenseful, penetrating psychological analysis that goes beyond the crime — which in the course of the novel demands drastic punishment — to reveal something about the human condition: The more we intellectualize, the more imprisoned we become. #Russia #classicallit #redemption

### ***The Brothers Karamazov, Dostoyevsky***

Completed only two months before his death, *The Brothers Karamazov* is Dostoyevsky's largest, most expansive, most life-embracing work. Filled with human passions — lust, greed, love, jealousy, sorrow and humor — the book is also infused with moral issues and the issue of collective guilt. As in many of Dostoyevsky's novels, the plot centers on a murder. Sucked into the crime's vortex are three brothers: Dmitri, a young officer utterly unrestrained in love, hatred, jealousy, and generosity; Ivan, an intellectual capable of delivering, impromptu, the most brilliant, lively, and unforgettable disquisitions about good and evil, God, and the devil; and Alyosha, the youngest brother, preternaturally patient, good, and loving. Part mystery, part profound philosophical and theological debate, *The Brothers Karamazov* pulls the reader in on many different levels. #Russia #classicallit #theologicalissues

### ***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Douglass***

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Born into a family of slaves, Frederick Douglass educated himself through sheer determination. His unconquered will to triumph over his circumstances makes his one of America's best and most unlikely success stories. Douglass' own account of his journey from slave to one of America's great statesmen, writers, and orators is as fascinating as it is inspiring. **#nonfiction #autobiography #AfricanAmericanlit**

### ***Middlemarch, Eliot***

George Eliot's novel explores a fictional nineteenth-century Midlands town in the midst of modern changes. The proposed Reform Bill promises political change; the building of railroads alters both the physical and cultural landscape; new scientific approaches to medicine incite public division; and scandal lurks behind respectability. The quiet drama of ordinary lives and flawed choices are played out in the complexly portrayed central characters of the novel—the idealistic Dorothea Brooke; the ambitious Dr. Lydgate; the spendthrift Fred Vinoy; and the steadfast Mary Garth. The appearance of two outsiders further disrupts the town's equilibrium—Will Ladislaw, the spirited nephew of Dorothea's husband, the Rev. Edward Casaubon, and the sinister John Raffles, who threatens to expose the hidden past of one of the town's elite. *Middlemarch* displays George Eliot's clear-eyed yet humane understanding of characters caught up in the mysterious unfolding of self-knowledge. **#VictorianEngland #satire #classiclitt**

### ***The Great Gatsby, Fitzgerald***

**Note: Students taking Honors American lit or AP American Lit may not read this for summer reading since we cover it in class!** A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess, *The Great Gatsby* captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American mythology. Self-made, self-invented millionaire Jay Gatsby embodies some of Fitzgerald's--and his country's--most abiding obsessions: money, ambition, greed, and the promise of new beginnings. It's also a love story, of sorts, the narrative of Gatsby's quixotic passion for Daisy Buchanan. The pair meet five years before the novel begins, when Daisy is a legendary young Louisville beauty and Gatsby an impoverished officer. They fall in love, but while Gatsby serves overseas, Daisy marries the brutal, bullying, but extremely rich Tom Buchanan. After the war, Gatsby devotes himself blindly to the pursuit of wealth by whatever means--and to the pursuit of Daisy, which amounts to the same thing. His millions made, Gatsby buys a mansion across Long Island Sound from Daisy's patrician East Egg address, throws lavish parties, and waits for her to appear. When she does, events unfold with detached, cynical neighbor Nick Carraway acting as chorus throughout. **#classiclitt #roaringtwenties #jazzage #romantictragedy**

### ***This Side of Paradise, Fitzgerald***

Fitzgerald's romantic and witty first novel was written when the author was only twenty-three years old. This semi autobiographical story of the handsome, indulged, and idealistic Princeton student Amory Blaine received critical raves and catapulted Fitzgerald to instant fame. *This Side of Paradise* captures the rhythms and romance of Fitzgerald's youth and offers a poignant portrait of the "Lost Generation." **#classiclitt #lostgeneration #roaringtwenties**

### ***The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, Franklin***

Few men could compare to Benjamin Franklin. Virtually self-taught, he excelled as an athlete, a man of letters, a printer, a scientist, a wit, an inventor, an editor, and a writer, and he was probably the most successful diplomat in American history. David Hume hailed him as the first great philosopher and great man of letters in the New World. Written initially to guide his son, Franklin's autobiography is a lively, spellbinding account of his unique and eventful life. Stylistically his best work, it has become a classic in world literature, one to inspire and delight readers everywhere. **#nonfiction #autobiography #fathersandsons**

### ***Peace Like a River, Enger***

**Note: Students taking Regular American lit or Honors American lit may not read this for summer reading since you will study this in class.** This richly evocative novel, narrated by an asthmatic 11-year-old named Reuben Land, is the story of Reuben's unusual family and their journey across the frozen Badlands of the Dakotas in search of his fugitive older brother. Charged with the murder of two locals who terrorized their family, Davy has fled, understanding that the scales of justice will not weigh in his

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favor. But Reuben, his father, Jeremiah—a man of faith so deep he has been known to produce miracles—and Reuben's little sister, Swede, follow closely behind the fleeing Davy. Affecting and dynamic, *Peace Like a River* is at once a tragedy, a romance, and an unflinching exploration into the spirituality and magic possible in the everyday world, and in that of the world awaiting us on the other side of life. **#comingofage #fathersandsons #christianity #christfigure**

### ***The Return of the Native, Hardy***

Thomas Hardy's tragic vision of a love struggling to overcome prejudice and rejection is set against the lowering background of Egdon Heath. Fiery Eustacia Vye passes her days, wishing only for passionate love. She believes that her escape from Egdon lies in marriage to Clym Yeobright, home from Paris and discontented with his work there. But Clym wishes to return to the Egdon community; a desire which sets him in opposition to his wife and brings them both to despair, demonstrating the tragic status for ordinary human lives and the ways that the characters in the novel-- especially the ill-fated lovers and Damon Wildeve-- spoil their chances to master their own destinies. **#VictorianEngland #classiclitt #romantictragedy**

### ***The House of Seven Gables, Hawthorne***

A gloomy New England mansion provides the setting for this classic exploration of ancestral guilt and its expiation through the love and goodwill of succeeding generations. Built over an unquiet grave, the novel carries a dying man's curse that blights the lives of its residents for over two centuries. Now Judge Jaffrey Pyncheon, an iron-hearted hypocrite and intellectual heir to the mansion's unscrupulous founder, is attempting to railroad a pair of his elderly relatives out of the house. Only two young people stand in his way — a visiting country cousin and an enigmatic boarder skilled in mesmerism. Hawthorne envisioned this family drama of evil, revenge, and resolution as a microcosm of Salem's own history as an idealistic society corrupted by greed and pride. His enduring view of the darkness at the heart of the national soul has made *The House of the Seven Gables* a landmark of American literature. **#salemwitchtrials #humannature #classicAmericanlit**

### ***The Old Man and the Sea, Hemingway***

*The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most endearing works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. **#manvsnature #ocean #classicAmericanlit**

### ***Les Misérables, Hugo (counts as two books)***

Introducing one of the most famous characters in literature, Jean Valjean-- the noble peasant imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread. In *Les Misérables* Victor Hugo takes readers deep into the Parisian underworld, immerses them in a battle between good and evil, and carries them onto the barricades during the uprising of 1832. Within his dramatic story are themes that capture the intellect and the emotions: crime and punishment, the relentless persecution of Valjean by Inspector Javert, the desperation of the prostitute Fantine, the amorality of the rogue Thénardier and the universal desire to escape the prisons of our own minds. *Les Misérables* gave Victor Hugo a canvas upon which he portrayed his criticism of the French political and judicial systems, but the portrait which resulted is larger than life, epic in scope-- an extravagant spectacle that dazzles the senses even as it touches the heart. **#frenchrevolution #christianity #redemption**

### ***Daisy Miller, James***

Henry James' 1878 publication that brought him international fame, *Daisy Miller* is subtitled "A Study in Two Parts." The plot centers around a Europeanized American man named Winterbourne, who meets a nouveau riche American woman going by the name Daisy Miller. A short novel, James wields the sword of fiction to craft a "study" of the roles of men and women, social relationships, cultural intersection, the allure of money, foolishness and wisdom, the responsibilities of parents, and the impact of one's life upon others. **#satire #comingofage #socialissues #classicAmericanlit**

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### ***The Reason for God, Keller***

*The End of Faith. The God Delusion. God Is Not Great. Letter to a Christian Nation...* Bestseller lists are filled with doubters. But what happens when you actually doubt your doubts? Although a vocal minority continues to attack the Christian faith, for most Americans, faith is a large part of their lives: 86 percent of Americans refer to themselves as religious, and 75 percent of all Americans consider themselves Christians. So how should they respond to these passionate, learned, and persuasive books that promote science and secularism over religion and faith? For years, Tim Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his Manhattan church. And in this work he single-handedly dismantles each of them. Written with atheists, agnostics, and skeptics in mind, Keller also provides an intelligent platform on which true believers can stand their ground when bombarded by the backlash. *The Reason for God* challenges such ideology at its core and points to the true path and purpose of Christianity. **#nonfiction #christianapologetics**

### ***A Separate Peace, Knowles***

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war. Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world. **#comingofage #boysschool #classicAmericanlit**

### ***Into Thin Air, Krakauer***

On May 9, 1996, five expeditions launched an expedition to the summit of Mount Everest. The conditions seemed perfect. Twenty-four hours later one climber had died and 23 other men and women were caught in a desperate struggle for their lives as they battled against a ferocious storm that threatened to tear them from the mountain. In all, eight climbers died that day in the worst tragedy Everest has ever seen. Jon Krakauer, an accomplished climber, joined a commercial expedition run by guides for paying clients, many of whom had little or no climbing experience. In *Into Thin Air* he gives a thorough and chilling account of the ill-fated climb and reveals the complex web of decisions and circumstances that left a group of amateurs fighting for their lives in the thin air and sub-zero cold above 26,000 feet-- a place climbers call "The Death Zone." *Into Thin Air* reveals the harsh realities of mountaineering and echoes with frantic calls of climbers lost high on the mountain and way beyond help. **#nonfiction #autobiography #adventure #exploration**

### ***Walking on Water, L'Engle***

**Note: Students taking AP American Lit may not read this for summer reading since we cover it in class!** In this classic book, Madeleine L'Engle addresses the questions: What makes art Christian? What does it mean to be a Christian artist? What is the relationship between faith and art? Through L'Engle's beautiful and insightful essays, readers will find themselves called to what the author views as the prime tasks of an artist: to listen, to remain aware, and to respond to creation through one's own art. **#nonfiction #art #christianity #spiritualmemoir**

### ***Till We Have Faces, Lewis***

**Note: Students taking AP British Lit may not read this for summer reading since we cover it in class!** This tale of two princesses-- one beautiful and one unattractive-- and of the struggle between sacred and profane love is Lewis's reworking of the myth of Cupid and Psyche and one of his most enduring works. **#Greekmythology #christianity**

### ***God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics, Lewis***

"Lewis struck me as the most thoroughly converted man I ever met," observes Walter Hooper in the preface to this collection of essays by C. S. Lewis. "His whole vision of life was such that the natural and the supernatural seemed inseparably combined." It is precisely this pervasive Christianity which is demonstrated in these forty-eight essays. Here Lewis addresses himself both to theological questions and to those which Hooper terms "semi-theological," or ethical. But whether he is discussing "Evil and God," "Miracles," "The Decline of Religion," or "The Humanitarian Theory of Punishment," his insight and observations are thoroughly and profoundly Christian. Drawn from a variety of sources, the essays were designed to meet a variety of needs, and among other

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accomplishments they serve to illustrate the many different angles from which we are able to view the Christian religion. They range from relatively popular pieces written for newspapers to more learned defenses of the faith which first appeared in *The Socratic Digest*. Characterized by Lewis's honesty and realism, his insight and conviction, and above all his thoroughgoing commitments to Christianity, these essays make *God in the Dock* very much a book for our time. **#nonfiction #essays #christianity #theology**

### ***Life of Pi, Martel***

*Life of Pi* is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. **#fantasy #India #animals #adventure #religion #philosophy #storytelling**

### ***Billy Budd, Sailor, Melville***

*Billy Budd, Sailor* has been called the best short novel ever written. In his brilliantly condensed prose, Herman Melville fashions a legal parable in which reason and intellect prove incapable of preserving innocence in the face of evil. For all those who feel themselves threatened by a hostile and inflexible environment, there is special significance in this haunting story of a handsome sailor who becomes a victim of man's intransigence. **#adventure #ocean #intrigue**

### ***Moby Dick, Melville (counts as 2 books)***

In part, *Moby Dick* is the story of an eerily compelling madman pursuing an unholy war against a creature as vast and dangerous and unknowable as the sea itself. But more than just a novel of adventure, more than an encyclopaedia of whaling lore and legend, the book can be seen as part of its author's lifelong meditation on America. Written with wonderfully redemptive humour, *Moby Dick* is also a profound inquiry into character, faith, and the nature of perception. **#ocean #adventure #manvsnature**

### ***The Crucible, Miller***

**Note: AP American Lit may not read this for summer reading since it will be covered in class.**

Arthur Miller's classic play is about the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminate the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence. Written in 1953, *The Crucible* is a mirror Miller uses to reflect the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's "witch-hunts" in the United States. Within the text itself, Miller contemplates the parallels, writing, "Political opposition... is given an inhumane overlay, which then justifies the abrogation of all normally applied customs of civilized behavior. A political policy is equated with moral right, and opposition to it with diabolical malevolence." **#allegory #witchtrials #play #drama #christianity #fearvsreason #classicAmericanlit**

### ***Death of a Salesman, Miller***

Willy Loman has been a salesman for thirty-four years. At sixty, he is cast aside, his usefulness exhausted. With no future to dream about he must face the crushing disappointments of his past. He takes one final brave action, but is he heroic at last or a self-deluding fool? **#play #classicAmericanlit #aging #expectationvsreality**

### ***Paradise Lost, Milton***

In *Paradise Lost*, Milton produced a poem of epic scale, conjuring up a vast, awe-inspiring cosmos and ranging across huge tracts of space and time. And yet, in putting a charismatic Satan and naked Adam and Eve at the centre of this story, he also created an intensely human tragedy on the Fall of Man. Written when Milton was in his fifties – blind, bitterly disappointed by the Restoration and briefly in danger of execution – *Paradise Lost*'s apparent ambivalence towards authority has led to intense debate



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about whether it manages to “justify the ways of God to men” or exposes the cruelty of Christianity. **#epic #christianity #theology #thefall**

### ***Knowing God, J.I. Packer***

J. I. Packer's classic has been an important tool to help Christians around the world discover the wonder, the glory and the joy of knowing God. In 2006, *Christianity Today* voted this title one of the top 50 books that have shaped evangelicals. This edition is updated with Americanized language and spelling and a new preface by the author. Stemming from Packer's profound theological knowledge, *Knowing God* brings together two important facets of the Christian faith knowing about God and also knowing God through the context of a close relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. Written in an engaging and practical tone, this thought-provoking work seeks to transform and enrich the Christian understanding of God. Explaining both who God is and how we can relate to him, Packer divides his book into three sections: The first directs our attention to how and why we know God, the second to the attributes of God and the third to the benefits enjoyed by those who know him intimately. This guide leads readers into a greater understanding of God while providing advice to gaining a closer relationship with him as a result." **#nonfiction #christianliving #theology**

### ***Total Truth, Pearcey (counts as 2 books)***

Is God a public figure? Does Christianity have a legitimate role to play in the public realm of politics, business, law, and education? Or are secularists right when they relegate religion to the strictly private realm of faith and feelings? In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey offers a razor-sharp analysis of the split between public and private, fact and feelings. She reveals the strategies of secularist gatekeepers who use this division to banish biblical principles from the cultural mainstream, stripping Christianity of its power to challenge and redeem the whole of culture. How can we overcome this divide? Unify our fragmented lives? Recover authentic spirituality? With compelling examples from the struggles of real people, Pearcey shows how to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity. She walks readers through practical, hands-on steps for developing a full-orbed Christian worldview. Finally, she makes a passionate case that Christianity is not just religious truth but truth about total reality. It is total truth. **#nonfiction #christianity #theologyandculture #worldviewstudies**

### ***Desiring God, Piper***

Scripture reveals that the great business of life is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. In this paradigm-shattering classic, newly revised and expanded, John Piper reveals that the debate between duty and delight doesn't truly exist: Delight is our duty. Readers will embark on a dramatically different and joyful experience of their faith. **#nonfiction #christianliving**

### ***Othello, Shakespeare***

In this tragic love story of jealousy and racial barriers, the Moor Othello marries the young European Desdemona. But his best friend, Iago, jealous of Othello's fame, leads Othello to believe his new wife is unfaithful. In typical Shakespearean fashion, plotting leads to further plotting, and once Iago's lies are untangled it is tragically too late. **#play #racialbarriers #classwarfare #jealousy #tragicromance #classlit**

### ***The Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare***

A young Venetian, Bassanio, needs a loan of three thousand ducats so that he can woo Portia, a wealthy Venetian heiress. He approaches his friend Antonio, a merchant. Antonio is short of money because all his wealth is invested in his fleet, which is currently at sea. He goes to a Jewish money lender, Shylock, who hates Antonio because of Antonio's anti-semitic behaviour towards him. Shylock nevertheless agrees to make the short-term loan, but, in a moment of dark humour, he makes a condition – the loan must be repaid in three months or Shylock will exact a pound of flesh from Antonio. Antonio agrees, confident that his ships will return in time. Typical Shakespearean plot twists and hijinks ensue! *The Merchant of Venice* is one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, but it remains deeply controversial. The text may seem anti-Semitic; yet repeatedly, in performance, it has revealed a contrasting nature. Shylock, though vanquished in the law-court, often triumphs in the theatre. In his intensity he can dominate the play, challenging abrasively its romantic and lyrical affirmations. What results is a bitter-sweet drama. Though *The Merchant of Venice* offers some of the traditional pleasures of romantic comedy, it also exposes the operations of prejudice. **#play #romanticcomedy #racialissues**

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### ***The Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare***

Inspiring the 1930's play *Kiss Me Kate* and the 1990's teen film *Ten Things I Hate About You*, Shakespeare's comedy tells the tale of two young men, the hopeful Lucentio and the worldly Petruchio, and the two sisters they meet in Padua. Lucentio falls in love with Bianca, the apparently ideal younger daughter of the wealthy Baptista Minola. But before they can marry, Bianca's formidable elder sister, Katherine, must be wed. Petruchio, interested only in the huge dowry, arranges to marry Katherine-- against her will-- and enters into a battle of the sexes that has endured as one of Shakespeare's most enjoyable works. **#play #romanticcomedy #menvswomen**

### ***The Tempest, Shakespeare***

On a remote island, Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, plots to restore his daughter Miranda to her rightful place, using illusion and skilful manipulation. The eponymous tempest brings to the island Prospero's usurping brother Antonio and the complicit Alonso, King of Naples. There, his machinations bring about the revelation of Antonio's low nature, the redemption of Alonso, and the marriage of Miranda to Alonso's son, Ferdinand. The *Tempest* embodies both seemingly timeless romance and the historically specific moment in which Europe begins to explore and conquer the New World. Its complexity of thought, its range of characters—from the spirit Ariel and the monster Caliban to the beautiful Miranda and her prince Ferdinand-- its poetic beauty, and its exploration of difficult questions that still haunt us today make this play wonderfully compelling. **#play #fantasy #romanticcomedy #revenge #redemption**

### ***St. Joan, Shaw***

Shaw's play tells the story of the historical Jean d'Arc (Joan of Arc), a young woman who claimed God and his saints spoke directly to her. She left her home to lead French soldiers in military action to drive the English out of France. Shaw's play portrays Joan as a fearless believer, who, upon her capture, faces imminent excommunication and burning at the stake for her heresy. **#play #historicalfiction #action**

### ***Frankenstein, Shelley***

**Note: Students taking Regular British lit may not read this for summer reading since you will study this in class.** At once a Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, *Frankenstein* tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein. Obsessed with discovering the cause of generation and life and bestowing animation upon lifeless matter, Frankenstein assembles a human being from stolen body parts but; upon bringing it to life, he recoils in horror at the creature's hideousness. Tormented by isolation and loneliness, the once-innocent creature turns to evil and unleashes a campaign of murderous revenge against his creator, Frankenstein. An instant bestseller and an important ancestor of both the horror and science fiction genres, this novel not only tells a terrifying story, but also raises profound, disturbing questions about the very nature of life and the place of humankind within the cosmos: What does it mean to be human? What responsibilities do we have to each other? How far can we go in tampering with Nature? In our age, filled with news of organ donation genetic engineering, and bio-terrorism, these questions are more relevant than ever. **#sciencefiction #horror #VictorianEngland #classicBritishliterature**

### ***Confessions, St. Augustine (counts as two books)***

The son of a pagan father and a Christian mother, Saint Augustine spent his early years torn between conflicting faiths and worldviews. His *Confessions*, written when he was in his forties, recount how, slowly and painfully, he came to turn away from his youthful ideas and licentious lifestyle, to become instead a staunch advocate of Christianity and one of its most influential thinkers. A remarkably honest and revealing spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions* also address fundamental issues of Christian doctrine, and many of the prayers and meditations it includes are still an integral part of the practice of Christianity today. **#nonfiction #christiantheology #classicallit**

### ***Uncle Tom's Cabin, Stowe***

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Selling more than 300,000 copies the first year it was published, Stowe's powerful abolitionist novel fueled the fire of the human rights debate in 1852. Denouncing the institution of slavery in dramatic terms, the incendiary novel quickly draws the reader into the world of slaves and their masters. Stowe's characters are powerfully and humanly realized in Uncle Tom, a majestic and heroic slave whose faith and dignity are never corrupted; Eliza and her husband, George, who elude slave catchers and eventually flee a country that condones slavery; Simon Legree, a brutal plantation owner; Little Eva, who suffers emotionally and physically from the suffering of slaves; and fun-loving Topsy, Eva's slave playmate. Critics, scholars, and students are today revisiting this monumental work with a new objectivity, focusing on Stowe's compelling portrayal of women and the novel's theological underpinnings. **#slavery #abolition #christianity #socialsatire**

### ***Gulliver's Travels, Swift***

Shipwrecked and cast adrift, Lemuel Gulliver wakes to find himself on Lilliput, an island inhabited by little people, whose height makes their quarrels over fashion and fame seem ridiculous. His subsequent encounters-- with the crude giants of Brobdingnag, the philosophical Houyhnhnms and the brutish Yahoos-- give Gulliver new, bitter insights into human behaviour. Swift's savage satire views mankind in a distorted hall of mirrors as a diminished, magnified and finally broken species, presenting us with an uncompromising reflection of ourselves. **#fantasy #18thcenturyBritishnovel #satire**

### ***Walden, Thoreau***

"I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately." *Walden*, or, *Life in the Woods*, is an American book written by noted transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and manual for self-reliance. Published in 1854, it details Thoreau's experiences over the course of two years in a cabin he built near Walden Pond, amid woodland owned by his friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson, near Concord, Massachusetts. **#nonfiction #transcendentalism #nature #philosophy**

### ***War and Peace, Tolstoy (counts as two books)***

Tolstoy's epic masterpiece intertwines the lives of private and public individuals during the time of the Napoleonic wars and the French invasion of Russia. The fortunes of the Rostovs and the Bolkonskys, of Pierre, Natasha, and Andrei, are intimately connected with the national history that is played out in parallel with their lives. The prodigious cast of characters, seem to act and move as if connected by threads of destiny as the novel relentlessly questions ideas of free will, fate, and providence. Yet Tolstoy's portrayal of marital relations and scenes of domesticity is as truthful and poignant as the grand themes that underlie them. **#Russianlit #revolution #freewillvsfate**

### ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Twain***

In this classic satirical novel, Hank Morgan, a supervisor in a Connecticut gun factory, wakes up in Britain in 528! In an effort to bring democratic principles and mechanical knowledge to the kingdom, Hank introduces newspapers, telephones, bicycles, and other modern conveniences to the Britain of the Dark Ages. But when he tries to improve the lot of the common people, chaos and war result, giving a bittersweet tone to this comic masterpiece by one of America's greatest storytellers. **#satire #comedy #classiclit**

### ***Ben Hur, Wallace***

Judah Ben-Hur lives as a rich Jewish prince and merchant in Jerusalem at the beginning of the 1st century. His old friend Messala arrives as commanding officer of the Roman legions. They become bitter enemies. Because of an unfortunate accident, Ben-Hur is sent to slave in the mines while his family is sent to leprosy caves. As Messala is dying from being crushed in a chariot race, he reveals where Ben-Hur's family is. On the road to find them, Ben-Hur meets the Christ as he is on the road to Golgotha to be crucified. That day changes Ben-Hur's life forever, for that is the day he becomes a believer. **#Romanempire #historicalfiction #christianity**

### ***Up from Slavery, Washington***

This autobiography of Booker T. Washington's life and work has been a source of inspiration for all Americans. Washington reveals his innermost thoughts as he transitions from ex-slave to teacher and founder of one of the most important schools for

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African Americans in the south, The Tuskegee Industrial Institute. Washington, a recognized national leader, orator, and educator, emerged from slavery in the deep south, to work for the betterment of African Americans in the post-Reconstruction period.  
**#nonfiction #biography #AfricanAmericanstudies**

### ***Girl Meets God, Winner***

The child of a Jewish father and a lapsed Southern Baptist mother, Lauren F. Winner chose to become an Orthodox Jew. But even as she was observing Sabbath rituals and studying Jewish law, Lauren was increasingly drawn to Christianity. Courageously leaving what she loved, she eventually converted. In *Girl Meets God*, this appealing woman takes us through a year in her Christian life as she attempts to reconcile both sides of her religious identity. **#nonfiction #personalmemoir #christianity #judaism #comingofage**

### ***Our Town, Wilder***

This classic play tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens. Throughout, Wilder uses metatheatrical devices setting the play in the actual theatre where it is being performed. The main character is the stage manager of the theatre who directly addresses the audience, brings in guests lecturers, fields questions from the audience, and fills in playing some of the roles. The play is performed without a set and the actors mime their actions without the use of props. **#play #allegory #comingofage #death**

### ***Native Son, Wright***

Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America. **#1930sAmerica #AfricanAmericanstudies #racialbarriers #socialissues**

## 11th/12th Summer Reading (American Literature) 2019-2020

### Social Studies-Science Reading List

#### ***Darwin's Black Box, Behe***

Behe provides an outstanding apologetical tool for laypersons and professionals alike. His thesis-Darwinism has yet to show how evolution has worked to produce complex systems that biochemists observe in certain cells-is not only clearly presented in understandable language for non-scientists, but it is also replete with examples to thoroughly explain and illustrate the true "missing link." Behe separates the technical sections that might bog down non-scientists, making for a very engaging and readable text. The final chapter analyzes William Paley's argument from design, which is crucial to the defense of Christianity, and refutes recent attacks against it by atheists and agnostics. **(approx. 329 pages)**

#### ***The Boys in the Boat: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel James Brown***

How the working-class lads on the University of Washington's eight-oar crew beat out elite teams to win 1936 Olympic gold. **(approx. 402 pages)**

#### ***Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History, Penny Le Couteur, Jay Burreson***

This fascinating book tells the stories of seventeen molecules that greatly influenced the course of history. These molecules provided the impetus for early exploration and made possible the ensuing voyages of discovery. They resulted in grand feats of engineering and spurred advances in medicine; lie behind changes in gender roles, in law, and in the environment; and have determined what we today eat, drink, and wear. **(approx. 375 pages)**

#### ***By the Rivers of Water, Erskine Clark***

In early November 1834, an aristocratic young couple from Savannah and South Carolina sailed from New York and began a strange seventeen year odyssey in West Africa. Leighton and Jane Wilson had freed their inherited slaves, and were to become the most influential American missionaries in West Africa during the first half of the nineteenth century. However, upon returning to the United States, in spite of their years of fighting slavery, they succumbed to pressures from the South during the Civil War and gave themselves to a history and a people committed to maintaining slavery and its deep oppression—both an act of deep love for a place and people, and the desertion of a moral vision. **(approx. 450 pages)**

#### ***Setting the World Ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the American Revolution, John Ferling***

"Setting the World Ablaze is the story of the three men who, perhaps more than any others, helped bring the United States into being: George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Braiding three strands into one narrative, John Ferling brings these American icons down from their pedestals to show them as men of flesh and blood, and gives us a new understanding of the passion and uncertainty of the struggle to form a new nation." "Setting the World Ablaze shows in detail how these conservative men - successful members of the colonial elite - were transformed into radical revolutionaries, and in doing so, it illuminates not just the special genius of these three leaders, but the transformation of His Majesty's colonies into the United States."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved **(approx. 392 pages)**

***The Demon Under the Microscope: From Battlefield Hospitals to Nazi Labs, One Doctor's Heroic Search for the World's First Miracle Drug, Thomas Hager***

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The Nazis discovered it. The Allies won the war with it. It conquered diseases, changed laws, and single-handedly launched the era of antibiotics. This incredible discovery was sulfa, the first antibiotic. In *The Demon Under the Microscope*, Thomas Hager chronicles the dramatic history of the drug that shaped modern medicine. **(approx. 340 pages)**

### ***Hiroshima*, John Hersey**

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic -that stirs the conscience of humanity- (The New York Times).

Almost four decades after the original publication of this celebrated book, John Hersey went back to Hiroshima in search of the people whose stories he had told. His account of what he discovered about them is now the eloquent and moving final chapter of **Hiroshima**. **(approx. 152 pages)**

### ***Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption*, Laura Hillenbrand**

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. **(approx. 473 pages)**

### ***The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements*, Sam Kean**

Why did Gandhi hate iodine (I, 53)? How did radium (Ra, 88) nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why is gallium (Ga, 31) the go-to element for laboratory pranksters? The Periodic Table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession. These fascinating tales follow every element on the table as they play out their parts in human history, and in the lives of the (frequently) mad scientists who discovered them. *THE DISAPPEARING SPOON* masterfully fuses science with the classic lore of invention, investigation, and discovery--from the Big Bang through the end of time. **(approx. 391 pages)**

### ***A Hobbit, A Wardrobe, and a Great War*, Joseph Laconte**

World War I was supposed to be the war to end all wars; a war to cleanse humanity. Instead, it became the most deadly conflict the world had ever seen. The lives of two of the 20th century's greatest authors, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien were deeply affected by their experiences as soldiers in the war. Despite the hardships they faced, their views on good, evil, humanity, and God following the war diverged from most of western society, which emerged from the war disillusioned. These two men, through faith and friendship, refused to believe the lies of a society that turned away from Christ and put its trust in man. **(approx 196 pages)**

### ***The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History*, Joseph M. Marshall**

As a brilliant leader of a desperate cause and one of the most perennially fascinating figures of the American West, Crazy Horse crushed Custer's 7th Cavalry and brought the United States Army to its knees. Now, with the help of celebrated historian Joseph Marshall, we finally have the opportunity to know Crazy Horse as his fellow Lakota Indians knew him. **(approx. 310 pages)**

## 11th/12th Summer Reading (American Literature) 2019-2020

### ***The Prince, Machiavelli (to be read in conjunction with *The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels*)***

Machiavelli's treatise on statecraft, first published in 1517. Using as his model Cesare Borgia, a Florentine prince who stopped at nothing to achieve political position, Machiavelli describes, even recommends, ruthless despotism, cunning magnanimity and cruelty for successful government. **(approx. 71 pages) Note: Each book requires a separate non-fiction report.**

### ***The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels (to be read in conjunction with *The Prince* by Machiavelli)***

Originally published on the eve of the 1848 European revolutions, *The Communist Manifesto* is a condensed and incisive account of the worldview Marx and Engels developed during their hectic intellectual and political collaboration. Formulating the principles of dialectical materialism, they believed that labor creates wealth, hence capitalism is exploitative and antithetical to freedom. **(approx. 65 pages) Note: Each book requires a separate non-fiction report.**

### ***Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship, Martin W. Sandler***

Talks about an amazing high-seas adventure, which encompasses the search for the Northwest Passage in the early 1800s. Covering 39 heroic rescue missions, this book features photographs, paintings, engravings and maps. **(approx. 299 pages)**

### ***Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time, Dava Sobel***

Longitude is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest, and of John Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world. **(approx. 184 pages)**

# 11th/12th Summer Reading (American Literature) 2019-2020

## AP English American Literature Summer Reading Essay 2019-2020

As stated on the AP English summer reading list, in addition to reading a work from the Social Studies-Science List and completing a report regarding that work, you are required to read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and then write an essay about the work. The essay requirements are as follows:

- Address one of the prompts listed below.
- The essay must be at least three full pages long, not counting the Works Cited page. No partial credit will be given for partial pages. One full page = 22 lines.
- Format the essay according to MLA guidelines. (The only cited work is to be the novel. No outside sources.)
- Structure the essay in standard format, containing the following:
  - an introduction with a clear thesis statement that directly answers the prompt
  - body paragraphs that each contain a topic sentence that directly relates to the thesis and contain multiple units of analysis that support the paragraph's topic (A unit of analysis consists of the following: I. a claim/observation/insight that relates to the topic sentence, II. an instance of applicable cited textual evidence, and III. commentary on the evidence's support of the claim. All textual evidence in this essay is to be brief and directly-quoted.)
  - a conclusion that revisits the thesis and adds new insight in light of the analysis in the body of the essay.
- Edit thoroughly to ensure clean mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, and usage).
- Avoid plot summary.
- Submit the essay to turnitin.com by the beginning of the first AP English class of the first full week of the school year. It is not necessary to submit a hard copy of the essay. (Enroll in the class prior to submission using the following information: Class ID - 21292647; Enrollment Key - APENG19-20.)

### Essay Prompts:

1. Analyze the moral maturation of Huck in light of the events that disgust and depress him, the coping skills that he learns, and his actions and the circumstances for such.
2. "Picaresque" is a word used to describe a character who is poor, lives by his or her wits, travels, and has episodic adventures. Analyze how Huck can be considered a picaresque figure.
3. Analyze the portrayal of fathers in the novel, including Jim's father-like role in Huck's life.
4. Analyze what Twain communicates about slavery in the novel. How does the character of Jim relay his message? How does Huck?
5. Analyze the role of superstition in the novel. How does it affect the story and the characters?
6. Analyze the role of the river in the novel. How is it depicted? What is its importance? What does it seem to symbolize?
7. Analyze the topic of hypocrisy in the novel as revealed by Twain's satire.

Recommendation: Use the essay prompts to guide your annotation of the novel as you read. The novel will be the subject of discussion and analysis in the second semester. The better annotated your novel is, the better prepared you will be for these discussions and assignments.

Questions about the assignment should be emailed to Mrs. Kilmer at [kkilmer@gcswarriors.org](mailto:kkilmer@gcswarriors.org).



# 11th/12th Summer Reading (American Literature) 2019-2020

## Honors/Regular English 11/12 Summer Reading - Fiction Report

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Author: \_\_\_\_\_

*Answer the following in complete sentences on filler paper and attach it to this sheet.*

1. Plot (a summary of the sequence of events in a story from beginning to end)

- a. Exposition: What main characters are introduced early in the story? In what time and place does the story begin?
- b. Rising action: What conflict is at the root of the story's action, and what transpires which causes it to intensify?
- c. Turning point: What is the highest point of action, when the resolution of the conflict becomes a foregone conclusion?
- d. Resolution (also known as the denouement): What happens following the turning point? How does the conflict resolve?
- e. Conclusion: What "loose ends" are tied up and how does the story close? What is the story's theme (the main idea or universal truth about human life that the story examines)?

2. Identify a protagonist in the work. Briefly describe this character (any of the following: personality, character qualities, likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses, and/or beliefs).

3. Identify an antagonist in the work, and briefly describe them.

4. Identify an idea in the work that coincides with Scripture and explain how it coincides.

5. Identify an idea in the work that contradicts Scripture and explain how it contradicts.

6. Did you enjoy the book overall? If so, why? If not, why not?

## Honors/Regular English 11/12 Summer Reading - Nonfiction Report

On a separate sheet of paper,

- a) provide title and author of book, and
- b) hand-write each question below in complete sentences.

1. State the author's thesis.
2. Explain three or four of the most important ideas that support the author's thesis.
3. What did you want to find out when you chose this book? Did you find out what you wanted ? Why or why not?
4. What is the author's background? Is the author qualified to write on this topic? Why or why not?
5. Does he/she write with any bias? Explain.
6. Did this book change how you thought about the subject? If so, how? How can you use the information from this book in your life?