

Upper School Summer Reading
American Literature
2022-2023

Welcome to American Literature-- a course I hope will challenge you as a reader, thinker, and writer. I am looking forward to our year together!

Please note: The use of *SparkNotes* or any other reading substitutes is strictly forbidden and will be treated as an HONOR VIOLATION. DO NOT consult any outside sources as you read these books. If you are struggling with the reading, please email Ms. Masters (emasters@heathwood.org).

All students will read TWO books this summer:

All students will read:
All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr
AND

Each student will choose ONE of the following works of fiction:

Underground Railroad (Colson Whitehead)
Nickle Boys (Colson Whitehead)
Homegoing (Yaa Gyasi)
Beloved (Toni Morrison)
Sula (Toni Morrison)
The Color Purple (Alice Walker)
Cold Mountain (Charles Frazier)
River of Earth (James Still)
Moby Dick (Herman Melville)
Where the Crawdads Sing (Delia Owens)
The Kite Runner (Khaled Hosseini)
Station Eleven (Emily St. John Mandel)
Salvage the Bones (Jesmyn Ward)
The Crucible (Arthur Miller)
Song of Achilles (Madeline Miller)
In the Lake of the Woods (Tim O'Brien)
The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien)
A Gentleman in Moscow (Amor Towles)
Their Eyes Were Watching God (Zora Neale Hurston)
Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury)
The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck)
Fair and Tender Ladies (Lee Smith)
Southernmost (Silas House)
The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood)

I've tried to include a wide-range of topics to appeal to each of you. **Please take some time to research the titles** to find a book that will interest you! Obviously, you should not choose a book that you have already read. These books may contain questionable language or content. See me with concerns.

Assignment for each of the books:

As you read, make sure you are taking your time and annotating. Ask thoughtful questions of the text, how it is structured, and how it makes you feel.

Choose **five** passages that you find worthy of commentary or analysis. Type the passage--including the page number--and then write a well-developed paragraph of analysis.

Perhaps you want to examine a symbol or a literary device. Perhaps you want to make a connection between the passage and something else that you have read or experienced. Perhaps you believe the passage is central to one of the themes that you're discovering in the work. Perhaps you think it's funny and want to explain why. Again, please do not consult outside sources to determine which quotations are "worthy" of analysis. I don't care which passages you choose--only that you have something to say about them. The passage could be as short as a sentence or as long as a paragraph.

Five passages PER work. That's ten total.

Work should be typed in MLA style and submitted as a Google doc on Monday, August 23rd.

*You need to buy the actual physical copy of *All the Light We Cannot See* to bring with you to class. You may check out from the library or read a Kindle or Online version of the book of choice.

Happy Reading!