

American Lit & Composition, Year One—2020-2021

The American Lit and Comp class is designed to expose students to the themes of major American writers from the Early Native American Era through post-World War 2. Students will enhance their note taking skills during brief lectures, practice their critical thinking and analytical skills through in-class and online, guided Socratic discussions about the texts and themes, work both cooperatively and individually to comprehend the texts, develop their language and writing skills through both literary analysis and argumentative papers, demonstrate their communication abilities by way of class presentations, and practice using an online learning management system by completing assignments on Google Classroom. This class's content and pace are designed to be college preparatory. This course will require work outside of the class completed on Google Classroom. As a parent, you are welcome to adjust the assignments to meet the needs of your student, however, the student's grade will reflect the instructor assigned work. You may assign an alternate grade to your own student's transcript. Year two will focus on more modern novels and plays and include a special unit on Appalachian literature.

Below, please find the book titles, authors and ISBN of texts needing to be purchased for this course:

- *Copper Sun* by Sharen Draper (**Publisher:** Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 8, 2008) **ISBN-10:** 1416953485 **ISBN-13:** 978-1416953487)
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (**Publisher:** Scribner (September 30, 2004) **ISBN-10:** 9780743273565 **ISBN-13:** 978-0743273565)
- *OF Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (**Publisher:** Penguin Books; Reissue edition (September 1, 1993) **ISBN-10:** 0140177396 **ISBN-13:** 978-0140177398)
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (**Publisher:** Harper Perennial (2002) **ISBN-10:** 0060935464 **ISBN-13:** 978-0060935467)

All other materials will be provided digitally for your student through Google Classroom.

Below is an overview of the readings for this year:

Grammar

Students will have grammar lessons and assignments posted through Google Classroom for weekly completion.

Native American and Early American Issues/Writings

The World on a Turtle's Back (comparing Native creation stories to Judeo/Biblical and other cultural creation stories)

Writings from Chief John Ross and Andrew Jackson

Poetry and Writings from The Trail of Tears

Patrick Henry (Give me Liberty or Give me Death Speech)

Chief Tecumseh Speech

Anne Bradstreet (To My Dear and Loving Husband with comparative Native American text)

The Puritans and Their Influence

Jonathan Edwards (Sinners In the Hands of an Angry God)

Cotton Mather (selections)

Anne Bradstreet (Upon the Burning of Our House.)

The Founding Fathers/Documents

Ben Franklin (Selections from his Autobiography)

Thomas Jefferson (Declaration of Independence)

Thomas Paine (Excerpts from Common Sense and Age of Reason)

The Transcendentalists

Emerson (Selected essays)

Thoreau (Selected essays)

Whitman (O Me! O Life! O Captain! My Captain!)

The Dark Romantics

Hawthorne (The Minister's Black Veil)

Washington Irving (The Legend of Sleepy Hollow)

Edgar Allen Poe (The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, To Helen which will be compared to Helen of Troy poem)

The Issue of Slavery in America

Douglass (excerpts from Narrative of a Slave)

Sharon Draper (Copper Sun)

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

The Female Experience

Emily Dickinson (We Grow Accustomed to the Dark. Before I got my Eye put Out)

Kate Chopin (The Story of an Hour)

Sojourner Truth (Ain't I a Woman)

Realism

Upton Sinclair (The Jungle excerpts)

Jack London (Selected short stories)

Earnest Hemingway (Selected works)

The Disintegration of the American Dream

F. Scott Fitzgerald (Great Gatsby)

John Steinbeck (Of Mice & Men)

Prejudice, Justice, Conformity and Courage Post WWII

Harper Lee (To Kill a Mockingbird)

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (Harrison Bergeron)

Amy Tan (The Rules of the Game)

Walt Whitman's (I Hear America Singing)

Langston Hughes (I, too. Thank You Ma'am)

Claude McKay (America)