

Independent Reading Project

You will read two books on your own from now until Christmas break.

Rationale: Reading is important and fun! Reading great works of literature helps make you a better thinker and writer. Also, reading from this list will give you a better look into our culture and history.

Requirements:

-You will write about your chosen book once a week, connecting it to universal ideas, history, and/or current day. It is expected that you will embed short passages from the novel in your reflection. Each entry should be around 2-3 paragraphs.

-On the BIG due dates, you will have a “book trailer” prepared to share with the class. This can take the form of a video, prezi, poster, etc. The content should address why this particular book is important to be included in the American literature canon, how it addresses the fundamental human/American experience, and the specific strengths of the author’s writing craft/style. Be prepared to share with the class.

-We will spend about 30 minutes each week of class time working on our reading.

-Be sure to have your book with you all the time. 😊

Big Dates:

Oct. 6- First book presentation & journals due

Dec. 15- Second book presentation & journals due

I look forward to an engaging, interesting study of these great works of American literature.

American Literature List for Independent Reading

Alvarez – How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Angelou – I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Cather – My Antonia

Cooper – The Last of the Mohicans

Crane – The Red Badge of Courage

Ellison – The Invisible Man

Faulkner – As I Lay Dying

Hawthorne – The Scarlet Letter

Heller – Catch-22

Hemingway – A Farewell to Arms

Hemingway – The Sun Also Rises

Hemingway – The Old Man and the Sea

Hurston – Their Eyes Were Watching God

Kingsolver – The Poisonwood Bible

Knowles – A Separate Peace

Krakauer – Into the Wild

London – The Call of the Wild

Melville – Billy Budd

Morrison – The Bluest Eye

Morrison - Beloved

Plath – The Bell Jar

Potok – The Chosen

Rand - Anthem

Salinger – The Catcher in the Rye

Sinclair – The Jungle

Steinbeck – The Grapes of Wrath

Tan – The Joy-Luck Club

Thoreau – Walden

Vonnegut – Slaughterhouse Five

Walker – The Color Purple

Wells – The Glass Castle

Wharton – Ethan Frome

Wilder – Our Town

Wilson - Fences

Wright – Native Son

