

Junior Summer Reading 2015

Welcome to LaGrange Academy American Literature. The following books have been chosen to complement the novels and themes that you may cover in *American Literature*. I hope you will take the task seriously and choose books that truly interest you so that we can get off to a great start. If you have any questions at all regarding the assignment, please feel free to contact me at teresakrizay@lagrangeacademy.org.

Choosing the right books for you

Not all books are appropriate for all readers. Please note that some books may contain explicit language, sexual references, or mature subject matter. Thus, it is suggested that parents help their students make appropriate summer reading selections. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, go to www.goodreads.com/book/explore. If you are unhappy with your choice, feel free to make another selection from the list provided.

Requirement #1 – Read one (1) or more books

You are required to read **1 or more** books by the first day of class. The number of pages read must exceed 300 pages. You may read one book that exceeds 300 pages or you may read multiple books that add cumulatively to 300 or more pages. You may select any piece of literature you wish as long as it is considered a quality piece of literature (no Nicholas Sparks or fluff books) and contains has been written by an American author. I have attached a list of suggested books. You may read one from the list or select your own. You may not read books that were a part of any previous year's curriculum. Suggestion: Read one book in June and one in July. Use a calendar to determine the number of pages you'll read each day or week, and then stick to your plan.

Do not assume that this requirement can be met by only watching a movie based on a book. Movies often vary from the actual book and you will not be able to complete your assignment using this method.

Requirement #2 – Complete note-taking sheets for all books

On the first day of school, submit a note-taking sheet for each book. The note-taking sheets differ by grade, so be sure to use the correct sheet. Follow the directions on the note-taking sheet. These note-taking sheets will not be accepted after Friday of the first week. **If for some reason, you cannot fully meet this requirement, hand in the best work of which you are capable. Do not start the year with a zero or forfeit credit on a book which you have, in fact, read.**

Requirement #3 – Write an in-class essay the first week of school

Within the first few days of school, you will be asked to write an in-class essay about the book from the grade-level list. This writing test will be given the first week of school Since you may use notes for this assignment, you should use the note-taking sheet you completed as part of the second requirement. Without details and specific quotes from the novel, it will be difficult to properly do this assignment.

Junior Summer Reading List

*****You may select a book from this list or substitute a book of your choice, please see the instructions on the previous page for selection guidelines*****

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

When The Grapes of Wrath was published in 1939, America, still recovering from the Great Depression, came face-to-face with itself in a startling, lyrical way.

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy is one of the funniest science fiction novels ever written. Adams spoofs many core science fiction tropes: space travel, aliens, interstellar war and repaint them as commonplace, even silly.

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

A black man's search for himself as an individual and as a member of his race and his society.

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

The Bundren family takes the ripening corpse of Addie, wife and mother, on a gruesomely comic journey.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest Gaines

In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Janie repudiates many roles in her quest for self-fulfillment.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Depression.

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Billy Pilgrim, an optometrist from Ilium, New York, shuttles between World War II Dresden and a luxurious zoo on the planet Tralfamadore.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

A young woman sees herself as property until another woman teaches her to value herself.

11/22/63 by Stephen King

On November 22, 1963, three shots rang out in Dallas, President Kennedy died, and the world changed. What if you could change it back? King sweeps readers back in time to another moment – a real life moment – when everything went wrong.

Name: _____ Book/Author: _____

Junior Summer Reading Dialectical Note-taking Sheet

Directions: A dialectical note taking sheet is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. This sheet records a dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and your own ideas. While you are reading, choose **at least 6** passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column. In the right-hand column, write your in-depth response to the text (3-5 sentences). Be sure to include any thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas that you think are powerful, significant, thought provoking, or puzzling. You may attach additional sheets of paper if needed or attach additional note-taking sheets.

Quotation sample	Page	This Shows...
<i>“When the key of the store-shed was lost, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well. Curiously enough, they went on believing this even after the mislaid key was found under a sack of meal.”</i>		<i>...how the author uses irony to demonstrate a human weakness. The animals blame a scapegoat for something that goes wrong and cling to this mistaken belief even when the truth is obvious. This seems like clear evidence to me that often-times people are more interested in their own beliefs than in the truth</i>
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