

# AMERICAN LITERATURE

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## Course Description

A literature course covering novels by US and Canadian authors that span a period from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century through to modern times. These novels include autobiographies, political writings, memoirs and novels.

## Course Outline

The course requires a commitment of 120 hours over a 36-week educational year.

### Method

This course consists of reading and reflecting on 12 texts. The focus is on reading and understanding each book, supplemented by an assessed reaction or comparison paper.

*Red Badge of Courage* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be read together to enable the themes raised in these books to be discussed.

The process to follow for each text will be:

- Investigate the background to the book and author. Refer to the study guide, watch a video summary (or movie,) and obtain an understanding of the setting and plot before beginning reading
- Read the book, referring to the study guide or other resources as needed to understand any difficult sections
- Discuss the text with the teacher
- Review the study guide
- Write a reaction or comparison paper

### Resources

The reading list is as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>, by Benjamin Franklin</li><li>○ <i>The Federalist Papers</i>, by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay</li><li>○ <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>, by Frederick Douglass</li><li>○ <i>Up from Slavery</i>, by Booker T. Washington</li><li>○ <i>Red Badge of Courage</i>, by Stephen Crane</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Little Men</i>, by Louisa May Alcott</li><li>○ <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>, by L. M. Montgomery</li><li>○ <i>Farmer Boy</i>, by Laura Ingalls Wilder</li><li>○ <i>When Calls the Heart</i>, by Janette Oke</li><li>○ <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, by Harper Lee</li><li>○ <i>In His Steps</i>, by Charles Sheldon</li><li>○ <i>The Persian Gamble</i>, by Joel Rosenberg</li></ul> |
|---|--|

| Title   | Period and Genre  |
|---|---|
| <i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i><br><i>The Federalist Papers</i> | The Constitutional period (late 1700s),<br>biographical / political theory          |
| <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i><br><i>Up from Slavery</i>  | The Antebellum period (1800s), biographical   |
| <i>Red Badge of Courage</i>   | Civil War period (1861-1865), novel   |
| <i>Little Men</i><br><i>Anne of Green Gables</i>                              | Coming of Age novels, New England, late 1800s                                       |
| <i>Farmer Boy</i><br><i>When Calls the Heart</i>                              | Pioneer literature, Westward expansion, late<br>1800s / early 1900s, memoir / novel |
| <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>  | The Great Depression (1930s,) US South, novel                                       |
| <i>In His Steps</i><br><i>The Persian Gamble</i>                              | Christian Fiction, late 1800s / 2000s   |

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have gained a familiarity with some great American literature of the last few centuries.

## Assessment

This course will be graded using the Standard Grade Table. An ‘A’ grade requires 85% or better.

Ten of the texts are bracketed by period or genre. Assessment will comprise three comparison papers (each 15% of the final grade) for three sets of bracketed books, and a reaction paper for each of the remaining six books (each 7.5% of the final grade.)

The remaining 10% of the final grade will be assessed on the discussions.

## Comparison Paper

*React to and compare the bracketed books.*

|               |                                    |            |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Marking Guide | Spelling & Grammar                 | 5          |
|               | Layout & Presentation              | 5          |
|               | Writing & Penmanship               | 5          |
|               | Is the paper structured well?      | 10         |
|               | Description of the books           | 10         |
|               | Explanation of your reaction       | 15         |
|               | Compare and contrast the two books | 50         |
|               | <b>Total</b>                       | <b>100</b> |
|               | Percentage of Final Grade          | 15         |

## Reaction Paper

Write about your reaction to this book.

|                           |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Marking Guide             | Spelling & Grammar  | 5          |
|                           | Layout & Presentation   | 5          |
|                           | Writing & Penmanship  | 5          |
|                           | Is the paper structured well?                                       | 15         |
|                           | Description of the book   | 10         |
|                           | Explanation of your reaction  | 35         |
|                           | Does the paper demonstrate an understanding of the source material? | 25         |
|                           | <b>Total</b>  | <b>100</b> |
| Percentage of Final Grade | 7.5   |            |

## Agreement

### Teacher

I commit to providing guidance in all aspects of this course, to discussing primary and secondary resources with the student in order to aid understanding, and to giving clear direction in the preparation of assessments.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Student

I commit to reading the course books diligently, to preparing the assignments in a timely manner, and to conducting additional research as required. I will do my best and ask for help when I need it.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# AMERICAN LITERATURE

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| Week | Activity  |
|------|---|
| 1    |   |
| 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>      |
| 3    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / start Comparison Paper</b>     |
| 4    |   |
| 5    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Federalist Papers</i>                       |
| 6    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / Comparison Paper</b>           |
| 7    |   |
| 8    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> |
| 9    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / start Comparison Paper</b>     |
| 10   |   |
| 11   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Up from Slavery</i>                             |
| 12   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / Comparison Paper</b>           |
| 13   |   |
| 14   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Red Badge of Courage</i>                        |
| 15   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper: Red Badge of Courage</b>        |
| 16   |   |
| 17   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Little Men</i>                                  |
| 18   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / start Comparison Paper</b>     |

| Week | Activity  |
|------|---|
| 19   |   |
| 20   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>                    |
| 21   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / Comparison Paper</b>       |
| 22   |   |
| 23   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Farmer Boy</i>                              |
| 24   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / start Comparison Paper</b> |
| 25   |   |
| 26   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>When Calls the Heart</i>                    |
| 27   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / Comparison Paper</b>       |
| 28   |   |
| 29   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>                   |
| 30   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper: To Kill a Mockingbird</b>   |
| 31   |   |
| 32   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In His Steps</i>                            |
| 33   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / start Comparison Paper</b> |
| 34   |   |
| 35   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Persian Gamble</i>                      |
| 36   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reaction Paper / Comparison Paper</b>       |