

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors American Literature

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In the grand scheme of things, America is young. The nation was born in 1776, and it took at least half a century before it had any literary identity of its own. With authors from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century like Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allen Poe, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, Americans started to create a sense of self that was independent from British and Colonial literature.

This course will examine the progress of American Literature from this early American literary tradition all the way up to the present day. Our examination will be text-driven and will cover all the significant genres of literature. We will study novels, plays, poetry, short stories, film, and a variety of other forms of literary scholarship and criticism. While there will be time devoted to pre-1900 literature, the crux of the course will be 20<sup>th</sup> century literature. Certainly the history of our nation dictates that there will be a number of white male authors, particularly in the pre-1900 literature, but we will strive to move past majority stereotypes and pay strong attention to the literature of the minority—most notably females and African Americans. It is in these authors, often writing from the perspective of “the other,” that much of the best American writing can be found.

Assignments for this course will consist of regular nightly readings, usually limited to 25 pages of text, as well as a variety of written assignments. This is an honors course, so the expectations placed on your writing and analysis will be higher than you are accustomed to—there may be a period of adjustment that you won't particularly enjoy. We will write scholarly papers, personal responses, and creative works, as well as give oral presentations and complete a number of other unique projects. I ask very few things of you: 1. Read; 2. Think; 3. Take Risks.

If you accomplish those three things each day (as well as complete your written assignments), you will come out of this class a far better student and person than you came in. Good luck.

What we're reading this year (possibly in this order):

*The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger (Summer)

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller

*Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison

*The Piano Lesson*, August Wilson

*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien

*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

Poetry and short stories from Washington Irving, Edgar Allen Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, Jean Toomer, T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and others will be interspersed throughout the year.

## Contact Information:

**Email (works at school and home):**  
**IM Screen Name (for cyber days):**

[dmontgom@queenanne.org](mailto:dmontgom@queenanne.org)  
MrMontgomery25

**Course Website:**

<http://www.roar.org/faculty/montgomery>

## Class Rules:

1. Respect Me.
2. Respect Your Classmates.

## Grading Policies

- Tests, Essays & Other Major Assignments – 60%
- Quizzes & Short In-Class Writing Assignments – 15%
- Homework – 15%
- Class Participation – 10%

### Policy

### Initial

- **ALL** assignments **MUST** be typed, unless otherwise specified \_\_\_\_\_
- The following font and paragraph settings are mandatory for all work turned in for this class:
  - Double-spaced
  - 12 point font
  - Times New Roman font
  - 1-inch margins all around the text (left, right, top, bottom).
    - Except for page number which maintains a ½-inch margin with the top of the page. \_\_\_\_\_
- **ALL** assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work turned in up to one day late will receive a grade of 50
  - After that, a “0” will be given

- Students receiving a 50 on a late **Major Assignment** will be given the opportunity to rewrite that assignment and improve their grade
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➤ Homework will be graded on a Check, Check Plus, Check Minus, or “0” (no credit) scale.

- No late homework will be accepted
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- **Class Participation**

- Involvement in the day-to-day discussion of the class is essential to individual success as well as the progress of the class as a whole. Points for class participation can be earned by asking questions, answering discussion questions, reading texts, or participating in other designated activities. In order to receive full credit for class participation, students should average one significant contribution to class per day. If at any time you are curious about your participation grade, please ask.
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## Special Assignment Guidelines & Policies

### Policy

### Initial

- **Test Policies**

- Students may only use the bathroom **BEFORE** or **AFTER** tests. If a student needs to use the restroom during a test period, they will be required to turn their test in. I will consider their test completed at that time.
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- **Make-up Policies**

- For each **FULL DAY** that a student is absent from school, they will receive a day to make-up their tests, quizzes, and assignments.
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- If a student's **First Full Day Absence** is the same as the day an assignment is due, that assignment must be turned in the **FIRST Day the Student Returns**.

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- If a student does not come to me to discuss when they will make-up tests, quizzes, and assignments on the day they return to school, they may face either of the following repercussions:
  - Loss of between 25-50% of their grade
  - Forfeiture of their ability to make-up the grade

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- Students who are absent from my class, but who are not out for the full day will be required to make-up their Test or Quiz, or turn in their Assignment, on the **SAME DAY**.
  - The aforementioned penalties apply to this rule as well.

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## • Homework Policies

- All homework assignments will be posted online.
  - **BE AWARE:** If there is a discrepancy between what is posted online and what is specifically stated in class, my class-time instructions will take precedence.

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- ALL assignments turned in MUST be in the form of hard copies
  - I will not accept flash drives, emails, etc, during class hours

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## • Special Policies

- **I accept no responsibility for computer errors. Students emailing me homework are taking a risk and should be aware of that fact**
  - Any “Emergency” situations that force a student to email an assignment to me will be handled on a case-by-case basis. HOWEVER, I will **NOT** be responsible for any lost or corrupted files. If I cannot open a file it will be considered **LATE**

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- **FOR ALL TYPED MAJOR ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS:**
- **DO NOT** use Headers in my class.
  - The only place your name should appear is on the **BACK** of the last page.

- On the back of the last page, **handwrite** your name, below it - your class, below that - my name, and below that - the date.
  - My promise to you is that I will always grade the work, and not the student. Placing your name on the back of the last sheet helps me to fulfill this promise.
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➤ **Exception to the Late Policy:** Should circumstances beyond a student's control prevent him/her from turning in an assignment on time, they will be allowed 1 extra day. Each student will be allowed this exception a maximum of **ONCE** each **SEMESTER**.

**NO** other allowances will be made for late work.

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I have read the syllabus and understand all that is included therein.

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Student Name

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Student Signature