



American Literature with Composition
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Course Description: American Literature is a college-preparatory literature and composition course for grades 9-12. Students will use focus works, including novels, short stories, poems, and drama, which have been selected for literary quality, and for their place in the historical development of literature. Context readings provide background information about the author, the historical period, and the literary and artistic context of the focus work.

Students will gain an understanding of the development of literature and will practice the skills of close literary analysis through essays, approach papers, and other evaluative writing.

Objectives:

- Possess a broad knowledge of the history and development of American literature.
- Have specific understanding of selected representative texts by major authors of the periods studied.
- Have a general understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the works.
- Be able to analyze literary texts and present thoughtfully developed ideas in writing.
- Demonstrate competence in essay organization, style, and mechanics.

Curriculum: American Literature by Janice Campbell is a volume of the Excellence in Literature: Reading and Writing through the Classics curriculum published by Institute for Excellence in Writing. This self-directed course, introduces students to great American literature in a chronological historical, literary, and artistic context, while developing skills in writing and literary analysis.

Works studied in this course include:

Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin
Rip Van Winkle and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving
Selected works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper
The House of Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

(Additional works are suggested throughout for those who wish to make this an honors course.)