

11th Grade Major Works (2020-2021)

Novel/Play	Educational Purpose/Value	Biblical Integration
<p><i>The Great Gatsby</i> (F. Scott Fitzgerald)</p>	<p>The quintessential American Dream is explored through the lives of six characters. Students learn to write a college-level synthesis essay about purpose and success using <i>The Great Gatsby</i> and other sources.</p>	<p>The synthesis essay about purpose and success contrast the secular worldview with biblical worldview. <i>Gatsby</i> provides the model for how biblical success is NOT achieved while the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25) illustrates biblical success.</p>
<p><i>The Things They Carried</i> (Tim O'Brien)</p>	<p>Students grapple with the idea that not all memory is true, but sometimes becomes a piece of fiction. This genre paradox allows students to deepen analysis of two genres: fiction and nonfiction.</p>	<p>This novel tells the brutal story of the sacrifices made by American soldiers. Students begin to understand that war is not always glorious but a deep personal sacrifice. Their sacrifice for our freedom should never be taken lightly. Students realize that there is no greater love than this (John 15:13).</p>
<p><i>The Awakening and Selected Short Fiction</i> (Kate Chopin)</p>	<p>These novels present a picture of early 1900 America and the cultural roles men and women were assigned. With half of the class reading one novel and the other half reading the second, students will practice public speaking skills through a Socratic seminar.</p>	<p>Students will grapple with how gender roles have changed since early 1900's through today. The novels will be accompanied by other readings that explore these roles and how a biblical worldview either confirms those roles or refutes them.</p>
<p><i>Ethan Frome and Selected Stories</i> (Edith Wharton)</p>		

<p><i>Our Town</i> (Thornton Wilder)</p>	<p>Students will consider how communities have changed since World War I. Wilder's play captures how values have changed between 1907 and today. Students will write a farewell speech mimicking the one from the play and write a compare/contrast of our community today with the community of the past.</p>	<p>Students reflect on the ideas of Psalm 39 that our lives are brief and each moment needs to be lived with purpose.</p>
<p><i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (Mark Twain)</p>	<p>These three works--satire of racism, struggle to be equal, first-person account of slavery--writing prompts as students learn how to write a college-level essay by thinking critically about a current issues in our country.</p>	<p>Who is my neighbor? Students will consider how our actions towards others reflect a biblical worldview. We will read in conjunction with these novels the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), Jesus' words about the most important commandment (Matthew 22), and Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4).</p>
<p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> (Zora Neale Hurston)</p>		
<p><i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i> (Frederick Douglass)</p>		
<p><i>The Essential Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe</i> (Edgar Allan Poe)</p>	<p>Poe is combined with authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and William Faulkner. Their works help students understand American Gothic and Southern Gothic.</p>	<p>The ideas of these stories lead to discussions about spiritualism. Christians should seek instruction and wisdom from God's Word and not from those within the spiritualist world (Isaiah 8:19-22).</p>
<p><i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (Tennessee Williams)</p>	<p>Students will consider how to look at literature from another perspective, specifically psychologically as we explore the relationships in this family.</p>	<p>The culture of service is oppositional to the secular view. Students will consider the biblical worldview of serving</p>

		our family members instead of seeking personal desires.
<i>Outliers</i> (Malcolm Gladwell) (Summer Reading)	This work illustrates a well-reasoned inductive argument with a traceable line of reasoning that provides an illustration of the type of writing students will learn throughout the year. This is also a major source for the first essay of the year.	The ideas of <i>Outliers</i> are augmented with the Bible reading plan from YouVersion by Hugh Welchel, "The Meaning of Biblical Success." These two pieces along with ones from other disciplines become the stimulus for students to write about how they view success in the light of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25). (See also <i>The Great Gatsby</i> .)