

12th Grade Major Works (2020-2021)

Novel/Play	Educational Purpose/Value	Biblical Integration
<p><i>The Tragedy of Hamlet</i> (Shakespeare)</p>	<p>The greatest of Shakespeare's plays that deals with revenge vs. justice, the meaning of life, the development of relationships.</p>	<p>A Christian Worldview gives us meaning in our lives. Through a discussion of the play, students will see clearly how meaningless an individual's life may become without a relationship with his Heavenly Father. It is the opinion of some scholars that Shakespeare had Genesis open as he wrote <i>Hamlet</i>.</p>
<p><i>East of Eden</i> (Steinbeck)</p>	<p>Steinbeck considered this novel his greatest achievement. It is based on the biblical allusion to Genesis 4:1-16 and the story of Cain and Abel. The human desire for parental approval and the sibling rivalry occurs in the attempt for acceptance is underlined with the redemptive potential in "timshel" ("thou mayest").</p>	<p>The sinful nature of man is focused upon in this great novel with the redemptive qualities of "timshel." Students are made aware of Steinbeck's message that God gave us free will to determine our future and to determine the kind of person that we want to be.</p>
<p><i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (Wilde)</p>	<p>Students are introduced to the elements of comedy dating back to Greek comedy to the present based on Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>.</p>	<p>Our approach to the reading of this play is our attempt at "earnestly seeking God." It is when we are self-centered rather than God-centered that mishaps begin to happen.</p>
<p>1984 (Orwell)</p>	<p>Students are introduced to the idea of dystopian literature, the effects of oppression, and tyranny.</p>	<p>There are close connections between Winston Smith and Christ, the dystopia and man's failings, the government and Christianity. These connections will be analyzed in the novel.</p>
<p><i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (Austen)</p>	<p>Students analyze the idea of first impressions and follow a relationship between Darcy and Elizabeth develop. Students learn about coping mechanisms and how one must work hard at creating lasting relationships.</p>	<p>Students and the teacher will explore the transformative power of love. Students will discuss the many aspects of love and will discuss the use of "coping mechanisms" in our lives.</p>
<p><i>Wuthering Heights</i> (Bronte)</p>	<p>Some say the greatest novel ever written, students see how everything is wrong about one generation and</p>	<p>Characters in this novel represent a wide range of religious beliefs. Students will</p>

	how everything is right about a second generation.	be asked to identify these beliefs and attitudes, weigh them in light of their own beliefs.
<i>Heart of Darkness</i> (Conrad)	This novel will be approached as a way of looking at what happens to a man when power, greed, self-pride, and a lack of accountability become the focus of one's life.	Is <i>Heart of Darkness</i> a racist work as suggested by Chinua Achebe? Or does Conrad have noble goals in <i>Heart of Darkness</i> . How might we deconstruct the work through a Christian lens?
<i>Oedipus the King</i> (Sophocles)	In this classical play, students contemplate a world where man's life is fated without free will.	How does the Greek concept of fate, hubris, and "anagnorisis" conflict with Christian teachings and a Christian worldview.
<i>The Death of a Salesman</i> (Miller)	Students are asked to take what they know about Greek and Shakespearean tragedy and apply it to Arthur Miller's American tragedy.	How does Christianity fill the void in one's life? How does it give meaning to a life in a meaningless universe?
<i>The Nickel Boys</i> (Whitehead)	Students must confront the racial injustices that took place in a boys' reformatory in South Florida.	How might we deal with racism and social injustice today? This question resounds in the novel taking place in the Jim Crow era of American history and is echoed today.
<i>How to Read Literature like a College Professor</i> (Foster)	Students will read an easy-to-read guide to reading great works of literature.	Foster discusses the Bible's influence on Western literature and thought throughout the centuries.