

Summer Reading English 11



Assignment

This summer, you will explore American identity through literature. Choose one book from the list below, and then complete two assignment options. Be thoughtful in your reading and creative in your response.

This assignment will be due the first week of school.

Books

Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck

A moving story of friendship, dreams, and survival during the Great Depression.

The Crucible

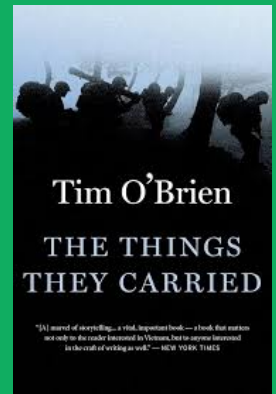
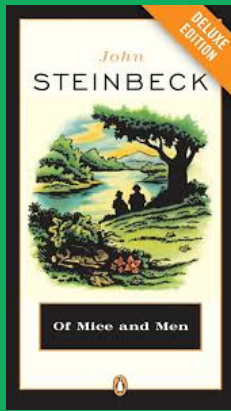
Arthur Miller

Play about the Salem witch trials that explores how fear and false accusations can destroy a community.

The Things They Carried

Tim O'Brien

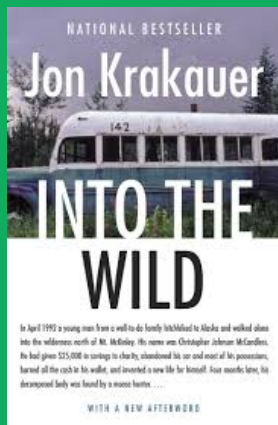
A Vietnam War narrative that blends fact and fiction.



Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer

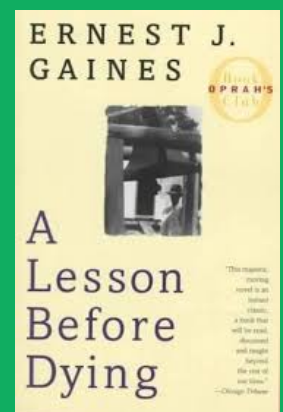
A nonfiction narrative of a young man's journey into isolation.



A Lesson Before Dying

Ernest J. Gaines

A novel about injustice and redemption in the Jim Crow South.



Assignments

Literary Analysis Essay

Write a 2–3 page essay analyzing a central theme in your book and how the author develops it through character, setting, or symbolism. Connect your analysis to the essential question: What does it mean to be American?

Creative Response

Create a short story, poem series, or piece of visual art inspired by a moment, character, or theme in the book. Include a 1-page artist's statement explaining how your work reflects the book and its connection to American identity.

Character Journal

Write five journal entries (1 page each) from the perspective of a main character. Focus on internal conflict and how the character experiences or defines being American.

Comparative Reflection

Write a 2-page reflection comparing a theme from your book to a current issue in American society. Include at least one current article or news source and discuss how the theme is still relevant today.

Podcast or Video Review

Write and record a 3–5 minute podcast or video review. Reflect on how the book explores American identity and why it is or isn't relevant for students today.