

HONORS/DUAL CREDIT/AP ENGLISH BOOK CHOICES

English 2 Honors (9th grade Honors):

SELECT ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

***The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams**

Tom Wingfield is the family breadwinner after his father disappears. His sister Laura is painfully shy and suffers from an illness that, combined with her shyness, prevents her from striking out on her own. Their mother Amanda has high hopes and dreams for both her grown kids, in spite of their current circumstances; however, she keeps dwelling in the past, constantly reminding her kids of her life when she was younger and begging Tom to find a nice young man for his sister. But lately, Tom has been acting funny and seems restless. Laura has her own troubles, and her mother pins all her hopes on a gentleman who is coming for dinner as Tom's guest. Will Laura finally be able to overcome her shyness? Will Tom actually abandon his position as family breadwinner? Can Amanda let go of the past and help her children find their futures?

***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**

An unlikely pair: George is "small and quick and dark of face"; Lennie, a man of tremendous size, has the mind of a young child. Because Lennie has a hard time adjusting, George loyally stays with him to protect Lennie from a cruel world and to drill important life lessons into Lennie's head. They have formed a "family," and they have a plan: They want a house and land they can call their own. However, in Depression-era California, money--and work--are hard to come by. When they land jobs on a ranch in the Salinas Valley, the fulfillment of their dream seems to be within their grasp. But even George cannot guard Lennie from a flirty woman, nor can he predict the consequences of Lennie's unswerving obedience to the things George taught him.

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

Scout is a 10-year-old tomboy in the sleepy Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama. It's the mid-1930s. Scout's world consists of fun play dates with her brother Jem and friend Dill, school, and time with her beloved dad Atticus, a lawyer. We see the world through Scout's eyes as she encounters many new experiences and learns lessons. But her world is about change. Her father takes a case in which a man is unjustly accused of a horrible crime, and Scout's world changes as prejudice and inequality interrupt her life. Scout soon learns a valuable lesson: Doing what is morally right is not always easy, popular or safe.



English 3 British Literature Honors (10th grade Honors):

SELECT ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë**

Charlotte Brontë's impassioned novel is the love story of Jane Eyre, a plain yet spirited governess, and her employer, the arrogant, brooding Mr. Rochester. Published in 1847 under the pseudonym of Currer Bell, the book heralded a new kind of heroine—one whose virtuous integrity, keen intellect and tireless perseverance broke through class barriers to win equal stature with the man she loved. Hailed by William Makepeace Thackeray as "the masterwork of a great genius," *Jane Eyre* is still regarded, over a century later, as one of the finest novels in English literature.

***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

Austen trains her sights on a country village and a few families--in this case, the Bennets, the Philips, and

the Lucases. Into their midst comes Mr. Bingley, a single man of good fortune, and his friend, Mr. Darcy, who is even richer. Mrs. Bennet, who married above her station, sees their arrival as an opportunity to marry off at least one of her five daughters. Bingley is complaisant and easily charmed by the eldest Bennet girl, Jane; Darcy, however, is harder to please. Put off by Mrs. Bennet's vulgarity and the untoward behavior of the three younger daughters, he is unable to see the true worth of the older girls, Jane and Elizabeth. His excessive pride offends Lizzy, who is more than willing to believe the worst that other people have to say of him; when George Wickham, a soldier stationed in the village, does indeed have a discreditable tale to tell, his words fall on fertile ground.

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens**

Classic novel of consuming passions, played out against the lonely moors of northern England, recounts the turbulent and tempestuous love story of Cathy and Heathcliff. Heathcliff and Cathy, childhood playmates who grow into soul mates, believe they're destined to love each other forever, but when cruelty and snobbery separate them, their untamed emotions literally consume them. Both poetic and incisive, this novel examines the dark depths of human psychology as the soul searches for love, understanding, and acceptance.

The storming of the Bastille . . . the death carts with their doomed human cargo . . . the swift drop of the guillotine blade—this is the French Revolution that Charles Dickens vividly captures in this famous work. With dramatic eloquence he brings to life a time of terror and treason, a starving people rising in frenzy and hate to overthrow a corrupt and decadent regime. With insight and compassion he casts his novel of unforgettable scenes with unforgettable characters.

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

Classic novel of consuming passions, played out against the lonely moors of northern England, recounts the turbulent and tempestuous love story of Cathy and Heathcliff. Heathcliff and Cathy, childhood playmates who grow into soul mates, believe they're destined to love each other forever, but when cruelty and snobbery separate them, their untamed emotions literally consume them. Both poetic and incisive, this novel examines the dark depths of human psychology as the soul searches for love, understanding, and acceptance.



English 4 American Literature Honors (11th grade Honors)

SELECT ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

***The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton**

The Age of Innocence is the haunting story of the struggle between love and duty in Gilded Age New York told through the eyes of Newland Archer and his betrothed, May Welland. A young lawyer on the rise, Newland Archer needs only a society wife to solidify his position, but finds himself torn after he meets and falls deeply in love with May's disgraced cousin, the Countess Olenska. This is an exclusive, stifling social world, which is the only world Newland has ever known and the "home" Ellen has longed for all her life, and the society is so established and rigid that both of these strong people find it overwhelming. Even though neither of them is happy here, what choice do they have? While the attraction between Archer Newland and Countess Olenska is undeniably strong, can Archer Newland deny the foundation of his upbringing? Can he defy the monster that is "society?" Can love truly conquer all?

***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck**

Set during the Great Depression, it brings to life the migration of an Oklahoma Dust Bowl family to California and their hardships as migrant farm workers. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. The chronicles of the Joad family's life on a failing Oklahoma farm, their difficult journey to California, and their disillusionment once they arrive there and fall prey to a parasitic economic system bring up questions about the American Dream. Is it really worth it?

***The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway**

What does it mean to be a part of the "Lost Generation"? In his career-making novel, Hemingway provides a poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation. The story follows the flamboyant Lady Brett Ashley and the hapless Jake Barnes as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love and vanishing illusions. Every element of every great Hemingway book can be seen here - plenty of vivid descriptions; moments of strange, elegiac melancholy; the human spirit fighting against the world; loneliness, isolation, and endurance. They're all here as Jake struggles to find his place in a world that is far less innocent now.



Eng 5 Honors OR English 101/102 Dual Credit

SELECT ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

***Hard Times* by Charles Dickens**

The novel is set in a system whose schools eschew the arts and humanities. These are hard times, but not times without humor. School teacher Gradgrind makes it clear that feelings, art, decoration, are worthless distractions. Only facts have value. Gradgrind's own children, Tom and Louisa, prove early victims of this "just the facts" upbringing. By way of contrast, Sissy Jupe, perhaps Gradgrind's worst student, the indigent daughter of circus performers, channels her innate creativity to save Tom from jail and Louisa from an unwanted husband.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving**

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom.

***The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy**

The novel opens with a poor workman named Michael Henchard, in a fit of drunken rage when he sells his wife and baby daughter to a stranger at a country fair. Stricken with remorse, Henchard forswears alcohol and works hard to become a prosperous businessman and the respected mayor of Casterbridge. But he cannot erase his past. His wife ultimately returns to offer Henchard the choice of redemption or a further descent into his own self-destructive nature.

***To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Wolfe**

The three sections of the book take place between 1910 and 1920 and revolve around various members of the Ramsay family during visits to their summer residence on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Mrs. Ramsay, with her emotional, poetic frame of mind, contrasts Mr. Ramsay, a self-centered philosopher, but both are flawed by their limited perspectives. A painter and friend of the family, Lily Briscoe, works on

completing a painting throughout the novel.



AP English Language:

SELECT ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING CHOICES:

***The Iguana Tree* by Michel Stone**

How much would you risk for a better life? From the outside looking in, America is the place where dreams come true. Deep in the heart of Mexico, Hector makes the heart-wrenching decision to go to America, leaving his wife and infant daughter behind until he can find a way to get them “across.” After his “coyote” crossover experience, Hector makes his way to Edisto Island in South Carolina, where helpful Americans offer him legal advice and responsible employment. Meanwhile, wife Lilia sets into motion a new plan that could have devastating consequences, bringing us back to the question: How much would you risk for a better life?

***The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingslover**

When missionary Nathan Price takes his wife and four daughters off to Africa, salvation is the one thing they're not likely to find. The year is 1959 and the place is the Belgian Congo. Nathan, a Baptist preacher, has come to spread the Word in a remote village reachable only by airplane. To say that he and his family are woefully unprepared would be an understatement: "We came from Bethlehem, Georgia, bearing Betty Crocker cake mixes into the jungle," says Leah, one of Nathan's daughters. But of course it isn't long before they discover that the tremendous humidity has rendered the mixes unusable, their clothes are unsuitable, and they've arrived in the middle of political upheaval as the Congolese seek to wrest independence from Belgium. In addition to poisonous snakes, dangerous animals, and the hostility of the villagers to Nathan's fiery take-no-prisoners brand of Christianity, there are also rebels in the jungle and the threat of war in the air.

***Saints at the River* by Ron Rash**

Which is more important--respecting the land or respecting the dead? The death of a twelve-year-old tourist in the Tamassee River in upstate South Carolina throws a small SC town into a national uproar. The girl's body is trapped at the bottom of deep eddy; however, the river is under federal protection. The girl's parents want to attempt a rescue of the body; environmentalists are convinced the rescue operation will cause permanent damage to the river and set a dangerous precedent. Enter Maggie Glenn, a news reporter who left Tamassee ten years ago and never looked back. Sent to cover the story, Maggie must revisit old wounds as well as get the “scoop.”

***AP Recommended (but not required) Purchase for Class Use:**

Rhetorical Devices: A Handbook and Activities for Student Writers

Note: In the past, some students preferred to take notes in their own copies rather than borrow class copies.