

## English III American Literature: Summer Reading Assignment

2024

**1. Reading:** Your Summer Reading Assignment for English III American Literature involves reading **two books** that explore some perspectives of the American experience. Everyone will read *The Old Man and the Sea* as our first example of classic American Literature which we will study in August. Then **you will also choose one of the remaining books listed below**, annotating both books for the thematic subjects of **justice, resilience, and loss**. The required reading and annotations should be completed by August 15<sup>th</sup>. You will have an in-class writing assignment over this material within the first week of school.

If you are new to the idea of annotating, annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. Here is a link to a video from UT about annotations: <https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nl>

**2. Activity:** Create a Character Analysis Chart for one of the major characters in your chosen text. Characters' traits, backgrounds, and experiences directly affect their reaction to injustice and loss. You are examining what produces resilience in the face of adversity.

Character Analysis: Focus on one of the main characters in the book you chose to read. On a Google Doc, address each of the categories described below for that character. Provide a quote (with page) from the text as evidence of at least one of the claims you have made about the character for that category. You will upload this assignment to Google Classroom by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Categories of Character Analysis:

- Physical Characteristics (voice, demeanor, dress, distinguishing marks, strengths, weaknesses, etc.) \*include a quote as evidence
  - Background (Family life/history, personal interests, beliefs, values) \*include a quote as evidence
  - Development or Changes in Character (how the character responds to events and actions of other characters) \*include a quote as evidence
  - Tactics/Will (Conflict with self/nature/man/society? Threatening to others? Strong or weak willpower? Moral responsibility to others? Honest with self and others?) \*include a quote as evidence
  - Judgment (View of character in eyes of others - i.e. narrator, society, other characters) \*include a quote as evidence
  - Influences (good and bad) that impact the character's choices \*include a quote as evidence
- ***The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway** ISBN: 978-0-684-80122-3 You need a hard copy.
  - **Choose one more book from this list:** \*Choose a book you have not read.  
*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez      *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu  
*The Innocent Man* by John Grisham      *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*Geronimo: the True Story of America's Most Ferocious Warrior* edited by S. M. Barrett  
*Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team* by Andrew Maraniss

\*Note: By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of WCS. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Christian perspective when we study material in class.