

Honors American Literature SUMMER READING 2019-2020

Welcome! We look forward to traversing the globe with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time.

Students enrolled in Honors American Literature will be required to read two (2) novel selections over the summer: one fiction and one nonfiction. We would like to see you bring these books to class on the first day of school.

Be prepared to be assessed over these books immediately upon school starting. It would benefit you to annotate in your book (if you own it) while you read. The only assignment you have this summer is to immerse yourself in the splendor of these books and enjoy some fine summer reading!

NOVEL CHOICES

FICTION (choose one):

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway: The story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal—a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

The Razor's Edge by Somerset Maugham: Larry Darrell is a young American in search of the absolute. The progress of his spiritual odyssey involves him with some brilliant characters - his fiancée Isabel whose choice between love and wealth have lifelong repercussions, and Elliott Templeton, her uncle, a classic expatriate American snob.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane: "The first great 'modern' novel of war by an American—the first novel of literary distinction to present war without heroics and this in a spirit of total irony and skepticism." —Alfred Kazin

NONFICTION (choose one)

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer: In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand: On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal: Critically acclaimed author Karen Blumenthal takes us to the core of this complicated and legendary man while simultaneously exploring the evolution of computers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

English Department Head: Jessica Whyllly jwhyly@gocats.org