

# English 1383 Honors American Literature

## Grade 11

### Required Reading List

The following two literary selections are required reading for *all students* enrolled in English 1383 Honors American literature:

F. Scott Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby*

John Steinbeck – *The Grapes of Wrath*

Students should choose **one** of the following works to also read before the start of the course and then use to write their term paper during the semester:

Ray Bradbury— *Fahrenheit 451*

Ralph Ellison – *Invisible Man*

Joseph Heller—*Catch-22*

Ernest Hemingway—*For Whom the Bell Tolls*

Ken Kesey—*One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Toni Morrison – *Beloved*

Sylvia Plath—*The Bell Jar*

J.D. Salinger—*The Catcher in the Rye*

Upton Sinclair—*The Jungle*

Kurt Vonnegut – *Slaughterhouse-five*

Alice Walker—*The Color Purple*

Richard Wright—*Black Boy*

The unifying theme present in eleventh-grade Honors American Literature centers upon the “American Dream” as reflected in both social history and literature. Our study begins with the Puritan utilitarian writings, which elevate our country to a “city upon a hill.” We move to the eloquent prose of revered statesmen, including Thomas Jefferson, who provide the foundation to the ideals of our nation, and arrive ultimately in the twentieth century as we examine the works of writers such as F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, figures who exhibit disillusionment with the “American Dream.”

**During the first week of class, students will complete an objective test on the novels and complete an in-class essay centered on this concept of the American Dream.**