

# Independent Honors English for 11th and 12th Grade

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Instead of weekly reading assignments and homework, this class is broken down into units by themes. You'll read a collection of books that share a similar theme and complete work within a specific time frame. **You will self-pace your work within that time frame, so as long as you meet the deadlines, it doesn't matter to me what book you read first or how long it takes you to read it.** During each unit, you'll create and add to an authorship review per book plus write a paper that covers each theme and take an online test. We'll also meet on Zoom in between units.

- ★ **Authorship Reviews:** *Before* starting each book, you will do some independent research on who the author is, what motivated him/her to write the novel you're reading, and share any other interesting information you discover about the author. Each review should be between 300-500 words. Cite your sources. \*This will be *one document* you'll add to throughout the year.\*
- ★ **Thematic Papers:** Each paper should examine how the related theme is explored in each novel. Include specific examples from the books to support your answers. Each paper should be a *minimum* of 1,200 words and in MLA format. **I will not require outlines or rough drafts, but I'm happy to help you through that process if you prefer.** Just be in touch if you have questions or want me to review your work before turning it in for a grade.
- ★ **Unit tests:** There will be an online test following each unit that encompasses questions on plot points, literary elements, and character development. Any notes you take while reading may be used on tests.

Fall 2021	Spring 2022
<b>Unit 1: SEARCHING AND SURVIVAL</b> <i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel <i>Housekeeping</i> by Marilyn Robinson <i>One Second After</i> by William Forstchen <i>Life of Pi</i> by Yann Martel	<b>Unit 3: COMING OF AGE and IDENTITY</b> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee <i>A Monster Calls</i> by Patrick Ness <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> by Betty Smith <i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Lang (graphic novel)
<b>Unit 2: RELIGION AND MORALITY</b> <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> by CS Lewis	<b>Unit 4: HUMOR AND ABSURDITY</b> <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> by Douglas Adams <i>The Wee Free Men</i> by Terry Pratchett <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (No Fear Shakespeare)

**I highly recommend parents review the book list thoroughly and either read the novels prior to or alongside their students to judge the content accordingly. Because this list was cultivated for juniors and seniors, some novels include mature content.**

**Academic Requirements:** Students should be able to do the following things without help: 1) write a paper in MLA format, 2) extract main ideas from a novel, 3) identify common literary elements and devices being used in the text, and 4) complete homework assignments without prompting.

Fall 2021	Reading	Assignments
<p><b>Unit 1: Searching and Survival</b> <i>Aug. 19-Oct. 7</i></p> <p>Paper due: Oct. 1 Test due: Oct. 7</p>	<p>Read <i>Night</i>, <i>Housekeeping</i>, <i>One Second After</i>, and <i>Life of Pi</i>. To help prepare for your paper, take notes on any plot points related to themes of searching and survival.</p>	<p>Begin an <b>Authorship Review</b> as you start each book and submit via Google Docs. I've provided an example of what I'm looking for on the class page. <b>Paper:</b> Examine how themes of Searching and Survival are explored in each of the novels. Use specific examples from primary and/or secondary characters as they endure obstacles, search for what he or she needs to find, and survive specific challenges with/without success. Minimum 1,200 words. MLA format.</p> <p>Paper due no later than <b>Oct. 1</b> via Google Docs. The test link will be emailed to you upon receipt and is due by <b>Oct. 7</b>.</p>
<p><b>Unit 2: Religion and Morality</b> <i>Oct. 21-Dec. 16</i></p> <p>Paper due: Dec. 10 Test due: Dec. 16</p>	<p>Read <i>Things Fall Apart</i>, <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>, and <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>. To help prepare for your paper, take notes on how religion and morality plays a central role in the characters' lives.</p>	<p>Add to your <b>Authorship Review</b> before starting each book. <b>Paper:</b> Examine how themes of Religion and Morality are explored in each of the novels. Use specific examples from each plot and connect ideas between the books. You may need to do some extra research to realize C.S. Lewis' motivation for writing <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>. Minimum 1,200 words. MLA format.</p> <p>Paper due no later than <b>Dec. 9</b> via Google Docs. The test link will be emailed to you upon receipt and is due by <b>Dec. 16</b>.</p>

Spring 2022	Reading	Assignments
<p><b>Unit 3: Coming of Age and Identity</b> <i>Jan. 13-March 10</i></p> <p>Paper due: March 4 Test due: March 10</p>	<p>Read <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, <i>A Monster Calls</i>, <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>, and <i>American Born Chinese</i>. To help prepare for your paper, take notes on how the main characters go through various experiences that push them toward maturity.</p>	<p>Add to your <b>Authorship Review</b> before starting each book. <b>Paper:</b> Examine the personal growth that each main character experiences throughout their respective stories (Scout Finch, Conor O'Malley, Francie Nolan, and Jin Wang). Compare and contrast their specific journeys. Minimum 1,200 words. MLA format.</p> <p>Paper due no later than <b>March 4</b> via Google Docs. The test link will be emailed to you upon receipt and is due by <b>March 10</b>.</p>
<p><b>Unit 4: Humor and Absurdity</b> <i>March 24-May 5</i></p> <p>Paper due: April 29 Test due: May 5</p>	<p>Read <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>, <i>The Wee Free Men</i>, and <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>. To help prepare for your paper, take notes on how different elements create humorous scenes.</p>	<p>Add to your <b>Authorship Review</b> before starting each book. <b>Paper:</b> Explore how humor is expressed through dialogue, irony, miscommunication, and other literary devices. Use examples from the books to support your ideas. Minimum 1,000 words. MLA format.</p> <p>Paper due no later than <b>April 29</b> via Google Docs. The test link will be emailed to you upon receipt and is due by <b>May 5</b>.</p>