The Great American Authors Book Report: Works of Fiction

**Due Date for Step 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date for Biography (Part 1 of Project)**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date for Scholarly Articles**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date for Narrative Essay (Part 2 of Project):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale:** In preparation for the Reading SOL, students will complete book reports throughout the school year. *The Great American Authors Book Report* will not only prepare students for this exam, but it will also help to ensure that students become better acquainted with the most influential authors of American Literature. This choice of literature will also help students narrow down their areas of interest within this course.

**Directions**: Students will select **one** author from the *Great American Authors List.* Each student must choose a different author. Upon selection, students will read a minimum of two pieces of literature written by that author. Students may choose one long piece of literature (novel) and one shorter piece of literature (poetry, novella, short story) to read. Genres may include poetry, short stories, novels, and novellas.

This selection process will function ***as first come first serve***, for once an author has been selected it can no longer be used. Students will have approximately one month to read and complete the book report projects. Please follow the guidelines below for the book report.

* **Step 1:** Choose an author and a minimum of two pieces of literature from the list(s) provided. All authors and literature must be approved before moving onto steps 2 and 3.
* **Step 2:** Read a **minimum of** **two works** (pieces of literature) by the author.
  + **Note**: It is best to purchase copies of these books, as you will need them to reference throughout the project. Many books can also be purchased through Google Books (books.google.com).
* **Step 3:** Complete the book report projects

**\*Note**: There are several authors on the list that also appear on the *HCS Summer Reading List.* Students must select a new novel for this project and cannot recycle completed work.

**Breakdown of Book Report Projects**

**Part 1 Biography of the Author**: Students’ understanding of their chosen author’s biography will be illustrated through a creative poster. Students will design a poster board or trifold, and they will incorporate pictures, quotes, facts, and a narrative summary about the author’s work and life. Students will also include the author’s influence on American literature. The poster will be graded upon accuracy of information, color/design, and neatness. **(Total 100 points)**

**Part 2 Analysis of Literature**: Literature effects readers on a personal level. As we read, our own thoughts and feelings shape the way in which we critique the piece of writing. In addition, as readers learn more about a piece of writing, their relationship to it transforms and strengthens. In other words, we may learn more about an author and their writing through a better understanding of the literature’s universal themes and historical context.

After reading two pieces of literature, you will identify a theme that is common to several of the author’s work. You will use evidence from the texts and details from the author’s life to describe the theme and discuss its portrayal in the literature. Students will also use **specific details** from their personal life in order to illustrate their connection with the author and literature.

The final step of this project requires students to find articles about the author and the themes of his/her work. Students will choose **a minimum of two scholarly articles** to use in their final paper. They must be cited in MLA format and included in the work-cited page/bibliography.

The final narrative should be a minimum of 5 pages in length, and it should include a work-cited page/bibliography. The narrative must also follow MLA formatting guidelines. **(Total 200 points)**

**Guided Questions for Narrative Composition:**

1. What **details** from the story had the greatest impact on me?
2. How do I relate to the story on a personal level?
3. What are the **universal themes** from the literature? How do I relate to these themes?
4. How did particular details from the story help to create the work's total **effect**, **mood** and **tone**?
5. What information, which I found out during my research, changed my feelings about the author and his/her work?