

# English 3 Honors – American Literature

**Instructor:** Mrs. Reece

**School Year:** 2025-2026

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## Course Description

English 3 Honors explores the breadth of American literature from the colonial period to the modern era, emphasizing close reading, literary analysis, and critical thinking. Students will engage with complex texts, produce analytical and creative writing, and develop advanced research and presentation skills. As an honors course, the pace is faster, the reading load heavier, and expectations for depth of analysis higher.

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## Course Goals

By the end of the year, students will:

1. Analyze literary works within their historical, cultural, and philosophical contexts.
  2. Develop sophisticated writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences.
  3. Strengthen vocabulary, grammar, and style through application in writing and speech.
  4. Conduct independent research and synthesize findings into cohesive arguments.
  5. Collaborate in discussion-based learning, demonstrating active listening and respectful debate.
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## Major Units of Study

### 1. Foundations of American Literature (1600–1800)

- Puritan and Colonial Writings: William Bradford, Anne Bradstreet, Jonathan Edwards
- Revolutionary Voices: Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson

- Skills: Rhetorical analysis, persuasive writing

## **2. Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and Gothic Literature (1800–1865)**

- Authors: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Skills: Symbolism, thematic analysis, creative response writing

## **3. Realism and Regionalism (1865–1914)**

- Authors: Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Kate Chopin, Willa Cather
- Skills: Satire, dialect analysis, narrative structure

## **4. Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance (1914–1945)**

- Authors: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Ernest Hemingway
- Skills: Literary criticism, contextual analysis, argumentative writing

## **5. Postmodern and Contemporary Literature (1945–Present)**

- Authors: Arthur Miller, Lorraine Hansberry, Tim O'Brien, Amy Tan
- Skills: Comparative analysis, multimedia projects

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## **Core Texts (*Selections may vary*)**

- *The Crucible* – Arthur Miller
- *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain
- *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry

- *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
  - Poetry and short story collections from various American authors
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## **Assessments**

- Analytical essays
  - Creative writing assignments
  - Socratic seminars and debates
  - Research projects
  - Reading quizzes and tests
  - Final exam
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## **Grading Breakdown**

- **Essays/Projects:** 40%
  - **Tests/Quizzes:** 25%
  - **Classwork/Participation:** 20%
  - **Homework:** 15%
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## **Expectations**

- Arrive prepared with materials and assigned readings completed.
- Participate actively and respectfully in discussions.
- Submit all assignments on time; late work policy applies.

- Uphold academic integrity in all work.

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## **Supplies**

- Composition Notebook
- College-ruled paper
- Pens/pencils/highlighters
- Access to a device for research and writing