

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

Mr. Martin—American Literature

### Final Project—What makes American Literature American?

**Focus Question:** We have studied American Literature and what makes it “American” for the full year. Through every text, each author has included themes, characters, and major pieces of symbolism to discuss and analyze American culture and history. What you will do is take the texts we’ve read, the discussions we’ve held, and the papers you’ve written to answer the question: ***What makes American Literature “American”?***

*Yes, you’ve answered this question before...WAY WAY back in September (I know...it seems like forever ago). This is meant for you to reflect on the skills you have developed and the things you’ve learned.*

### Requirements:

*You must use the following to complete your final project.*

1. Read and complete a response journal for one of the following texts:

- Novels we have at WHS: *Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven* by Sherman Alexis, *Bluest Eye or Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison, *Catch-22* by Heller, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien, *Puddinhead Wilson* by Twain, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Hurston, *Black Boy* by Wright, *Invisible Man* by Ellison, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms* both by Hemingway, *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- Plays we have at WHS: *A Long Day’s Journey into Night* by Eugene O’Neill, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Cat on a Hat Tin Roof* or *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- There are many books that we don’t have in our book room. These include novels, plays, graphic novels, and collections of poetry that are considered educational American Literature texts. There is one great resource here: <https://www.perfectionlearning.com/top-100-american-literature-titles> Come see me if you wish you wish to take on one of these texts.
- Quotes/Analysis from at least **3 other texts from this course**.
- Analysis of each text’s connection to American culture, history, or any defining American themes/ideals.

**A note about text choice:** It’s my opinion that it’s hard to fully understand a text and its greater meaning without perspective. There will be days in the schedule that are dedicated to group discussion. These only work if you are reading the same book as a classmate. Please, if you are to choose a book, make sure someone else is reading it too. That way you can bounce ideas off of each other.

### The Project:

- A visual depiction of the focus question utilizing your skills and interests. You can take a poster, a video, a collage, or anything else that shows American Literature and our learning this year.
- While you present your creation to the class, you will present the focus question and your findings. This will include:
  - Your thesis
  - A quick summary of the text you read (5 W’s and the H)
  - Evidence and analysis of what makes these texts and the themes/characters/symbols within them quintessentially “American.”
  - A visual aide to showcase your quotes chosen and analysis of said quotes. Remember, use your visual to simply provide notes for your presentation. Do not read off of the slide.
  - The ability to answer questions/critiques from peers and from the instructor.
  - Rubric Attached

### The Composition:

- With the thesis devised from your focus question in mind, you will complete a paper **2-3 pages in length** utilizing MLA citations/paper set-up, paragraph form, and evidence/analysis.
  - Use this as an opportunity to showcase all you have learned about American Literature and about creating thoughtful compositions.
  - Will use CCSS Rubric 11-12: Argumentative (on [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com))

**Rubric—Final Project**

<b><u>CONTENT</u></b>		
Defining Characteristics of American Literature clearly explained (Thesis)	/35%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Depth of Supporting Information (Quotes) <i>Four works used minimally</i>	/20%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Accuracy of Supporting Information	/15%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<b><u>PRESENTATION</u></b>		
Creativity of visuals/ presentation	/10%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Audial/Visual—artistry, neatness, care	/10%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Textual—grammar, spelling, neatness, care	/10%	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_/100