



English III American Literature: Summer Reading Assignment 2026

1. Read *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

We will begin our study of American Literature in August with Hemingway as we explore different perspectives of the American experience.

Everyone will read *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. You will need your own copy of this to annotate. As you read, you should annotate for thematic topics of **heroism, resilience, and isolation**. The required reading and annotations should be completed by the first day of class in August. You will have an in-class writing assignment over this material within the first week of school.

If you are new to the idea of annotating, annotations may include brief notes, questions, highlighted passages, sticky notes, or coded references that can be reviewed at a later time. Here is a link to a video from UT about annotations: <https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nl>.

***The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway ISBN: 978-0-684-80122-3**

2. In addition, read one of the supplemental texts by American authors from the list below.

You will complete the following activity using this supplemental text.

Supplemental Text Options (Pick One) *Choose a book you have not read.

Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu

The Innocent Man by John Grisham

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Geronimo: the True Story of America's Most Ferocious Warrior edited by S. M. Barrett

Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team by Andrew Maraniss

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

3. Activity for your supplemental text:

Create a memory box for the main character of the text. Use items you have around your house to represent important events in the narrative. For example, a penny could represent the cost of

something in the story which created an important conflict. On a separate document, write a paragraph for each item in the box, explaining the symbolism of each item and its significance in the story. Your memory box should contain 8 symbolic items. This will be due within the first week of school.

*Note: By studying a diverse body of texts we will be introduced to literature that, at times, describes behavior and expresses ideas that conflict with the Christian view of the human situation and the values of WCS. Literature reflects Truth in two ways: 1) The Truth of the universe pervades our writing and appears as symbols, themes, thoughts and ideas expressed in literature. 2) Sometimes literature shows the need for God through the emptiness and actions a character accepts or the writing reveals. As a mature audience, we will be able to evaluate the material and literature through a Christian perspective when we study material in class.