

**To: All students enrolled in Advanced English 11**  
**From: Dr. Gibbons**  
**Subject: Required summer reading assignment for Advanced English 11**

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First, I want to congratulate you on your decision to take Advanced English 11. The class will challenge you to take your reading and writing abilities to the next level and develop fluency that will serve you well throughout your college career and your entire life. The following pages provide you with the information you need to complete the required outside reading assignments. If you have questions, please ask me before the school year ends, and I will be glad to provide further assistance. During the summer months, you can contact me via e-mail at Lgibbons@tcss.net but please understand that I will be checking e-mail on a weekly—not daily—basis.

*Please be advised that using Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, or any other similar type of study aid is strictly prohibited. Because Advanced English 11 is a reading and writing intensive course, students who have difficulty completing and comprehending the required outside reading or are reluctant to do so are strongly advised to take a standard English 11 class.*

## **Overview of Required Outside Reading Assignments**

The curriculum in Advanced English 11 focuses on American literature from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present time. To make the most of the time we have during the school year, the novels *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck are required outside reading for all students enrolled in Advanced English 11 for the upcoming school year. **On the first day of school, all students must have finished reading both *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck: No exceptions, no excuses. Additionally, on the first day of class, students must be prepared for a test, writing assignment, discussion, or any other type of assessment related to the required texts listed above.**

For this reason, I encourage students to review the novels and the optional response journals prior to our first class meeting. Because *The Age of Innocence* is no longer protected by copyright, it may be available free of charge on [Bartleby.com](http://Bartleby.com) or [Project Gutenberg](http://Project Gutenberg).

## **Suggested Reader's Response Activities**

To help prepare for the test on the novels and to focus your reading and guide comprehension, I suggest that students keep notes on the following elements as they read and review these notes prior to the first day of school. These reader's response activities are optional and will not be turned in for a grade.

- Relevant biographical information about each author and historical information about the time period during which each novel was published. (Note: *Relevant* means information you can see reflected in each novel.)
- Journal entries in which you discuss your responses and ideas about each text as well as significant quotes that reflect literary and stylistic devices the authors use to create meaning. Asking yourself these questions will guide you in writing your reflection: Why

is the quote important? What does the quote reveal? Why does the author say things this way? What is the tone/mood of the passage? A list of literary and stylistic terms follows.

## Advanced English 11-Gibbons

These literary and stylistic terms are ones you have used in various English classes, so *you are expected to have a working knowledge of all of these terms on the first day of Advanced English 11 class.*

**allegory**-a literary work in which characters, objects, or actions have multiple levels of meaning and significance

**alliteration**-the repetition of initial sounds (usually consonants) in successive or neighboring words

**allusion**-a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical that the author assumes the reader will recognize

**analogy**-a comparison of two different things that are similar in some way

**antagonist**-the person or thing opposed to the protagonist

**aphorism**-a concise statement that expresses succinctly a general truth or idea, often using rhyme or balance

**archetype**-recurrent designs, patterns of action, character types, themes, or images that are identifiable in a wide range of literature

**assonance**-the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds

**characterization**-the process of creating imaginary characters so that they seem lifelike to the reader

**cliché**-an expression that has been overused to the extent that its freshness has worn off

**colloquialism**-informal words or expressions inappropriate for formal writing

**dialect**-a variety of speech characterized by its own particular grammar or pronunciation, often associated with a particular geographical region

**dialogue**-conversation between two or more people

**diction**-the word choice an author uses to persuade or convey tone, purpose, or effect

**flashback**-the insertion of an earlier event into the normal chronological order of a narrative

**foreshadowing**-the presentation of material in such a way that the reader is prepared for what is to come later in the work

**genre**-a category or type of literature

**hyperbole**-intentional exaggeration to create an effect

**imagery**-the use of figures of speech to create vivid images that appeal to one of the senses

**irony**-the use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning; or, a discrepancy between what is expected and what actually occurs

**metaphor**-a direct comparison of two different things that says one thing is the other

**mood**-the emotional atmosphere of a work

**motif**-a standard theme, element, or dramatic situation that recurs in various works; also, a recurrent image, object, phrase, or action that unifies a work of literature

**narrator**-the one who tells the story; may be first- or third-person limited or omniscient point of view

**onomatopoeia**-a word that imitates the sound it names (ex: buzz)

**oxymoron**-an expression in which words that contradict each other are joined

**parallelism/parallel structure**-the use of words, phrases, or sentences that have similar grammatical structure; parallelism emphasizes the relationship between ideas

**parody**-a humorous imitation of a serious work

**personification**-giving human qualities or characteristics to non-human objects or creatures

**plot**-the action of a narrative or drama

**point of view**-the vantage point from which a story is told

**protagonist**-the main character, who may or may not be a hero or good person

**satire**-the use of humor to emphasize human weaknesses or imperfections in social institutions

**setting**-the time, place, and environment in which action takes place

**simile**-a comparison of two things using “than,” “like,” or “as.”

**style**-the choices a writer makes; the combination of distinctive features of a literary work

**symbol**-an object that has meaning in itself but conveys a deeper meaning as well

**syntax**-the manner in which words and phrases are arranged in sentences

**theme**- the central idea of a work

**tone**-the attitude of a writer, usually implied, toward the subject or audience

### **Additional Recommended Reading**

Being a well-read person offers numerous academic and personal benefits, but sometimes students are unsure about which books to select, given all of the choices available. For this reason, I am including a list of noted American authors and their works that complement the Advanced English 11 curriculum. I encourage those of you who have the time and the interest to read some of these titles.

<b><u>Author's Last Name, First</u></b>	<b><u>Title(s)</u></b>
Angelou, Maya	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>
Bradbury, Ray	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Cather, Willa	<i>My Antonia</i> <i>O Pioneers!</i>
Dreiser, Theodore	<i>An American Tragedy</i> <i>Sister Carrie</i>
Ellison, Ralph	<i>Invisible Man</i>
Faulkner, William	<i>Absalom, Absalom</i> <i>As I Lay Dying</i> <i>Light in August</i>
Hawthorne, Nathaniel	<i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>
Heller, Joseph	<i>Catch-22</i>
Hemingway, Ernest	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> <i>The Sun Also Rises</i>
Hurston, Zora Neale	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
James, Henry	<i>Portrait of a Lady</i>
O'Brien, Tim	<i>The Things They Carried</i>
Melville, Herman	<i>Billy Budd</i> <i>Moby Dick</i>
Miller, Arthur	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved</i> <i>The Bluest Eye</i> <i>Song of Solomon</i>
Salinger, J. D.	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>
Steinbeck, John	<i>East of Eden</i> <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Walker, Alice	<i>The Color Purple</i>
Warren, Robert Penn	<i>All the King's Men</i>
Williams, Tennessee	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>
Wright, Richard	<i>Black Boy</i> <i>Native Son</i>