

## English III Summer Reading Choices

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Students in **regular English III** will choose **one** novel from the list to read over the summer and complete **one** of the eight assignment options.

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### ***A Lesson Before Dying*- Ernest Gaines**

*A Lesson Before Dying*, is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting—and defying—the expected.

### ***Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer**

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

### **1776- McCullough**

Based on extensive research in both American and British archives, *1776* is a powerful drama written with extraordinary narrative vitality. It is the story of Americans in the ranks, men of every shape, size, and color, farmers, schoolteachers, shoemakers, no-accounts, and mere boys turned soldiers. And it is the story of the King's men, the British commander, William Howe, and his highly disciplined redcoats who looked on their rebel foes with contempt and fought with a valor too little known.

### ***Jane*- April Linder**

Forced to drop out of an esteemed East Coast college after the sudden death of her parents, Jane Moore takes a nanny job at Thornfield Park, the estate of Nico Rathburn, a world-famous rock star on the brink of a huge comeback. Practical and independent, Jane reluctantly becomes entranced by her magnetic and brooding employer and finds herself in the midst of a forbidden romance. But there's a mystery at Thornfield, and Jane's much-envied relationship with Nico is soon tested by an agonizing secret from his past. Torn between her feelings for Nico and his fateful secret, Jane must decide: Does being true to herself mean giving up on true love? Modern adaptation of *Jane Eyre*)

**\*All novel descriptions are from Amazon.**

## Summer Reading Assignment Options for English III

Choose ONE of the following options to turn in no later than the first Friday of the semester.

### **Option 1: Independent Reading Project Book Soundtrack**

You will be required to prepare a soundtrack for the novel you have chosen to read. Like music used in movie and musical soundtracks, the songs that you select will need to relate to significant elements in the novel. Include the following with your project: a PLAYLIST with the songs (if possible) AND ALBUM ARTWORK to fit the cover.

1. You will need to pick five different songs, one pertaining to each of the following:
  - a. A particular character
  - b. The relationship between two or more characters
  - c. The prominent theme in the novel (remember a theme is a life message)
  - d. The tone of a specific passage.
  - e. The setting of the novel in general or at a specific point
2. Write a 3-5 sentence response/explanation for each choice. Each response/explanation needs to be clearly labeled as to which of the five elements it is covering. Each response must also have at least one significant quote from your novel (with page number!) connected to at least one lyric line from the song. Remember: \* SONGS MUST BE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE!

### **Option 2: Original Movie Trailer**

If you think the book you just read would make a great movie, create a movie trailer to sell it to a larger audience. Use technology to create a movie trailer (1-3 minutes) that highlights the theme of the novel, and the pivotal moments when characters made specific choices that changed the outcome of the work. Use Animoto or a similar online tool, or the Movie option on iMovie. Make sure there is music and the trailer appropriately matches the book you are basing it on. Include at least one significant quote to add to the trailer.

See an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-PZnRlqa8c>

### **Option 3: Infographic**

Using an infographic template like easl.ly or piktochart, create a diagram, timeline, or other graphic for the novel you chose. Your graphic can chart how a favorite character changes throughout the story, how major events contribute to the theme of the novel, or how the author structures the text to create mystery, tension, or surprise. You must have at least 7 different points, and each must correspond to a quote from the novel. (include page number)

### **Option 4: Thematic Poster:**

Create a poster that demonstrates your ability to articulate the THEME of your novel. What is the author saying about life, humanity, the world? Each poster should contain:

- a. A title that clearly states the THEME (e.g. Humans are Beautiful or Humans are Brutal)
- b. Three examples from your novel (excerpts from the text, quotes from the text along with an appropriate image or illustration) and two examples (visuals, graphics) from the real world supporting the theme.
- c. one to two paragraphs of explanation for each example. This should explain why these examples from the book and the real world show that humans are more beautiful or brutal.
- d. At least five quality images: hand-drawn, cut from a magazine, or found electronically (think carefully about what a quality image is before choosing one for your poster)

### **Option 5: Character Autopsy**

Directions: For each body part listed, you are to artistically and symbolically represent the protagonist from your summer reading novel. For example, a hard-hearted or stubborn character may have a heart made out of stone. On a separate sheet of paper, for each body part, give a quotation supporting your illustration and explain that illustration and quote/metaphor.

#### **Body Parts:**

- The heart should represent what this character loves most. Decide what it should look like (whole, broken, “hardened,” etc.). Write a quote next to it from the text and explain why it is drawn that way or why he loves this person/thing/idea.
- The backbone should convey what motivates the character most. Think about ways to show why your character does what he or she does. Write a quote next to it from the text and explain why it shows what motivates him.
- The head represents his dreams, philosophy or vision. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.
- The mouth represents the character’s point of view. It could be the characters use of irony, understatement, satire, or sarcasm. Support this with a quote(s) from the text.
- The hands should be holding literal (real) or figurative (symbolic) items associated with the character.
- The hands should be the conflict with which the character must deal. Please support with a quote and explanation from the text.
- The legs represent the actions of the character in the text. You may paraphrase here, but cite the page number(s) from the text.
- The feet should be a symbolic representation of the character’s most fundamental beliefs about life. Explain what is most important to them based on a quote(s) and why.
- The background should include elements that suggest the novel’s theme or central idea

### **Option 6: Twitter feed for a major character**

Make a timeline of major events in the novel that you read. Be sure the timeline of your newsfeed reflects the time period of your plot in the novel that you read. This must look like an actual Twitter newsfeed AND cover the entire plot of your novel. You may use [Fake Twitter Template](#) to create your timeline or you can create them using another source. For this assignment, you should include the following:

- **At least 20** tweets in text form
- **At least 10** picture or image posts with captions
- Interactions between your character and others
- A profile picture and a cover image that states the theme of the work