

Course Number (when applicable)
EN300
Course Title
American Literature
Name of Assignment (title of book(s), Author, Edition, and ISBN (when applicable))
See attached.
Expectations/Instructions for Student When Completing Assignment
See attached.
One Essential Question for Assignment
How does identity shape our responses to the world and to the texts and experiences we encounter?
One Enduring Understanding for Assignment
Both windows into other worlds and reflections of our own experiences enrich our lives, deepen our understanding, and enable meaningful connections with others.
Parent/Guardian Role and Expectations
Ensure student has access to texts. Be willing to discuss passages with student!
Estimated Time Requirement
Time will vary from student to student. The English department recommends that you begin by mid-July so that you have ample time to complete the assignment while enjoying your summer!

There are two summer reading books for rising Third Academic students taking American Literature. Please be sure to use the ISBN to obtain the correct editions:

McBride, James. *The Color of Water*. Riverhead Books, 10th Anniversary Edition, 2006.

ISBN-13: 978-1594481925

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*. Harper Perennial, Reissue edition, 2013.

ISBN-13: 978-0062277756

Summer Assignment:

1. Actively **read** your novels. Annotate as you read, mark passages that are of interest, make marginal notes, write questions, look up unfamiliar words, etc.
2. **Share a Passage:**
For **each** book, mark 4-7 passages of interest to you with sticky notes. Choose **one** of those passages and share it with another person. Your person of choice may be someone who has read the book, but it can also be someone who has NOT read the book. If the latter, be prepared to give that person context if necessary. Your person must be someone who does not go to Stone Ridge—but rather, someone of any age, a family member, fellow camp counselor, a co-worker, an attractive lifeguard (a good pick-up line activity!?), etc. You may either read your chosen passage aloud to them, or ask them to read it themselves. Discuss the passage together.
3. **Think about it:**
Things to consider: What inspired you to choose that particular passage? What inspired you to choose that particular person to share it with? (Go beyond the fact that they were in the room, the airplane seat next to you, etc.) What was their reaction? What was your discussion like? Jot of few notes about your discussion on an index card and either tuck it in the back of one of the books, or put it into your new English folder and bring to class the first day of English. (This is **required**. Index cards will be collected and counted on the first day of class as your first assignment.) Be prepared to share that experience with the class, either verbally or in writing upon your return to Stone Ridge in the fall.
4. Please complete this activity with **both** of your summer reading books.
5. After reading both books, attempt to **find connections** between the two—consider characters, themes, symbols, plot lines, historical context, etc. Be prepared to discuss these when you return in the fall.

6. **Happy Reading!**