



# HSLDA ONLINE ACADEMY

## English 1: Exploring Literature & Writing 2019–20 Booklist

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN	Available on the Academy's Bookstore?
Elements of Language, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Course	2009	Irvin & Warriner et. al	978-0-03-094195-5	No
Barron's 1,100 Words You Need to Know	6th	Murray Bromberg and Melvin Gordon	978-1-4380-0166-1	No
Romeo and Juliet: Folger Library Edition <i>Please note this specific edition. See p. 2 for explanation.</i>	2011	William Shakespeare	9781451621709	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
The Chosen	*	Chaim Potok	9780449213445	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
A Tale of Two Cities	*	Charles Dickens	9781853260391	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
The Pearl	*	John Steinbeck	9780140177374	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
Silas Marner	*	George Eliot	9780486292465	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
The Call of the Wild	*	Jack London	9781416500193	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>
Our Town	*	Thornton Wilder	9780060512637	<a href="#">Yes – find it here.</a>

### Please note:

1. Books marked with \* do not have required editions. Page numbers will differ between publishers.
2. Books and materials requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.
3. Book synopses and potential disclaimers can be found on the following pages of this PDF.

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### For more information

If you would like more information about English 1, please contact us at **540-338-8290** (*Monday–Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST*), or send an email to [academy@hsllda.org](mailto:academy@hsllda.org).

## *Romeo & Juliet* (Shakespeare)

**Synopsis:** In this classic tragedy, Shakespeare uses a legendary family conflict as the basis for a budding romance. A young man and a young woman from feuding families fall in love, and their resulting choices have devastating consequences.

**Reasons for teaching:** This classic Shakespearean tragedy examines the theme of youth vs. age, warning students to beware of youthful impetuosity and to heed the wiser counsel of adult mentors.

**Disclaimer:** Deals with teenage romance and suicide. Some illustrations in the recommended Folger edition depict Cupid and other classical figures.

*We selected the Folger Library Edition because the content of its footnotes is more appropriate for high school students, compared to other published editions.*

## *The Chosen* (Potok)

**Synopsis:** *The Chosen* follows two protagonists, young Jewish men growing up in 1940s New York City. It traces their friendship during World War II, the revelations of the Holocaust, and the founding of the nation of Israel. Despite their differences, their relationship grows and deepens as each works out his place in the world.

**Reasons for teaching:** A student favorite year after year, this story deals with the important themes of true friendship, interaction with different belief systems, and respectful parent/child relationships as the central characters grow up.

**Disclaimer:** Contains some language.

## *A Tale of Two Cities* (Dickens)

**Synopsis:** In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens compares and contrasts London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. The story follows the overthrow of the French aristocracy and the subsequent reign of terror through the eyes of one family with ties to both cities. The comparison between the two cities is used to demonstrate the consistency of human nature despite geographical and cultural differences.

**Reasons for teaching:** A thrilling piece of historical fiction, this novel allows students to experience an intriguing time in history and examines the Christian themes of redemption, sacrifice, and resurrection.

**Disclaimer:** Includes revolutionary violence.

## *The Pearl* (Steinbeck)

**Synopsis:** *The Pearl* is a story of human nature and greed. Kino, a pearl diver, discovers a treasure, a gigantic pearl of great value. Rather than bringing prosperity, the pearl inspires greed and brings out the evil in men.

**Reasons for teaching:** Written in a straightforward style, this story introduces students to another culture and explores the dangers of greed and oppression.

**Disclaimer:** Deals with dark themes and contains some violence.

## *Silas Marner* (Eliot)

**Synopsis:** In this classic tale, Silas Marner, a weaver, experiences disappointment and betrayal that cut him off from the society around him. When he adopts an orphan girl and raises her as his own, Silas rediscovers human love and community, escaping his life of miserly solitude.

**Reasons for teaching:** This book enables students to experience English culture in the early 1800s and sensitizes them to the importance of love for God and for one's fellow man.

## *The Call of the Wild* (London)

**Synopsis:** *Call of the Wild* is the tale of Buck, a mixed-breed dog from California who is kidnapped and forced to work as a sled dog during the Yukon gold rush. In this gripping adventure tale, Jack London uses Buck to comment on the state of nature, demonstrating how societies and social structures develop.

**Reasons for teaching:** This story is loved by students everywhere for its high action, suspense, and view of reality from the perspective of a dog. It vividly illustrates the bleakness of the naturalistic worldview.

**Disclaimer:** Includes scenes of intense animal violence.

## *Our Town* (Wilder)

**Synopsis:** This classic minimalist play analyzes life in a small town as the characters live, change, grow, and die. Wilder deals with the brevity of life and the value of a life well-lived.

**Reasons for teaching:** Through this play, students are challenged to remember what is truly important in life, learning why we should cherish every moment.