# BOOK LIST

## English 1: Exploring Literature & Writing

### Fall 2019 / Spring 2020

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<tr>
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<th>Edition</th>
<th>Author/Editor</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
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<td>Elements of Language, 3rd Course</td>
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<td>Irvin &amp; Warriner et. al</td>
<td>9780030941955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barron’s 1,100 Words You Need to Know</td>
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<td>Silas Marner</td>
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<td>Our Town</td>
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<td>Wilder, Thornton</td>
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**Please note:**

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

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Romeo & Juliet by William 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.

→ REASON FOR TEACHING: This novel will introduce students to reading a full-length classic together. We will focus on learning and applying basic literary analysis terms, analyzing characters, and respectfully discussing a well-known piece of literature. Its high-interest plot and accessible style will build students’ enthusiasm for literature and lay a solid foundation for the year, while its biblical themes of loyalty, friendship, and the deadliness of bitterness will strengthen their biblical worldview.

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 by Chaim 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.

→ **REASON 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 by Charles 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.

→ **REASON 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 by John 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.
REASON 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** by George 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** by Jack 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 by Thornton 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.