

# American Literature and Composition for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Tutor:

Sharon Reyes

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## Texts:

*The United States in Literature* (provided by the tutor)

*The Academy Tutorial Writing Manual* (can be purchased at the tutorial for \$15)

## Tuition and Fees:

Literature Class: \$352 per year (literature instruction)

Writing Lab: \$200 per year (writing instruction)

Copy Fee: \$20.00

Text/Notebook Rental Fee: \$25.00

**Literature Course Overview:** Students will gain an understanding of the historical and cultural progress of our country through a chronological and analytical survey of American literature. The student will be trained to discern and discuss major literary themes in the assigned selections from the Puritan era through modern times. They will discover how these authors shaped and reflected our national identity. In addition to the text, we will read classic fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short stories, and drama.

**Writing Lab Overview:** I will instruct and reinforce necessary writing skills that accompany the assigned essays of literary analysis in the literature course.

Writing skills that will be taught, modeled, and encouraged:

- Students will learn to respect the writing process – they will learn the necessary skills to pre-write, outline, write a first draft, revise and edit their own writing, and produce a final copy.
- Students will mature in their writing style – they will grow in sentence structure, word choice, and use of literary terms.
- Students will learn necessary research skills for academic writing.
- Students will use *The Academy Tutorial Writing Manual* to reinforce and develop the following skills--writing strong thesis statements and introductions, developing logical claims with strong evidence, integrating and paraphrasing quotes, crafting poetry and play analyses, and securing essay unity.

Writing Lab for sophomores is highly recommended. We feel that all students need this extra instruction and time to work one-on-one with the tutor and other peers in crafting and revising their essays.

In addition to the weekly reading and quizzes, I will assign contextual research

on author's biographies, analytical questions, unit worksheets, essays of literary analysis, and a mid-term and final.

The average study time for this class is **6-8 hours weekly**. This college-preparatory class is appropriate for sophomores and juniors because of the mature content of the reading selections.

**On-Site Tutoring** at The Academy (availability TBD):

Students can sign up ahead of time, as needed

**Fee:** \$15.00 per half-hour

**Private Tutoring** (availability TBD):

Students can request private tutoring off-site, as needed

**Fee:** \$30.00 per hour (if you come to me) or \$40.00 per hour (if I come to you)

**Summer reading:** Folder to be distributed before summer break with reading and writing assignment. Students will read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne before the August Walk-Thru and complete a writing assignment.

**Syllabus and the first week's assignment** will be given at the August Walk-Thru.

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## Book List and Writing Labs

Please obtain the following books:

### **Texts:**

*The United States in Literature* (provided by the tutor)

*The Academy Tutorial Writing Manual* (can be purchased at the tutorial for \$15)

*The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (4<sup>th</sup> edition, ISBN 0-205-30902-X)

### **Readers:**

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

*Great American Short Stories* (ISBN 0-440-33060-2)

*Civil Disobedience and Other Essays* by Henry David Thoreau, Dover Thrift Edition

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Red Badge of Courage & Other Stories* by Stephen Crane (ISBN 0-14-039081-2)

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams

*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Literature provided by the tutor: *The Belle of Amherst* by William Luce

Literature resourced online: selected short stories and poetry

### **TWO OPTIONS for WRITING LABS:**

#### **1. Writing Lab on Tuesdays** (day Academy meets):

This writing lab will be offered during Academy hours and will benefit those students who desire help in the BEGINNING of the writing process. We will work together in a small group to generate writing topics, thesis statements, and general organization of essays. I will be on hand to give detailed instruction and help on the front end of crafting essays.

#### **2. Writing Lab on Fridays** (day A la Carte meets):

This writing lab will be offered three days after Academy day, giving students time to begin the writing process on their own. This lab will benefit those students who desire help in the MIDDLE or the ENDING of the writing process. Students must bring outlines or first drafts to this lab to receive help in the revising and editing process. I will be on hand to give a detailed reading and input on finishing essays. Students will then have a few days to revise for content and edit their essays according to comments by tutor and peers.