

Project: Independent Reading
Independent Novel Study
US Lit II—Mr. Naymik

As the name implies, independent study will involve you reading a novel or book and then selecting a series of activities to be completed outside of class. You will be required to complete three progress assignments and one final project.

Requirements:

1. **Selection of a novel or book written by an American author.** You will need to select a book with some literary merit (no romance-type novels) or social/historical value (can be fiction or nonfiction). I will make my personal collection available (though you will probably need to use a library or bookstore as I have a limited number of books). I must approve your book.
2. **Journal assignments.** You will complete three journal-type assignments while reading your book. These will deal with plot, character, theme and personal reactions and reflections. These are self paced, though there are deadlines for each assignment, which you can use to pace your reading. You must the assignment from me beforehand (will not be passed out).
3. **A final project.** There are several final projects to choose from. These will range from traditional writing assignments to more creative endeavors. All will involve some sort of written explanation to go with it. A summary of the options is listed below and further details on specific requirements will be available later.
 1. Find a movie which dealt with a similar theme or subject (not an adaptation of the book) and write a review of it explaining why it is like your novel.
 2. Do a collage of newspaper/magazine articles or photographs and write an explanation of how it relates to your novel.
 3. Write an alternate ending for the novel.
 4. Write a short story using one of the characters from the novel.
 5. Create a board game based on the book, including instructions on how to play it.
 6. Create a sound track for novel, selecting songs that reflect the mood and theme of various parts of the book. Write explanation of how the music/lyrics are appropriate.
 7. Pretend you are a feature writer for a major magazine. Write an interview with the main character.
 8. Create a movie poster for the novel with an explanation of how the images and design are appropriate.
 9. Create a Website for the book. Home page with basics and other pages with details about the book.

It will be important to keep up with the reading. Class time will not be nearly enough to complete your novel (class time may not be scheduled, so keep your book handy). This independent study will require just that, independent study. Developing independent reading habits is essential for college and life long learning and enrichment. This will be a challenge for some of you but all of you are capable of doing this—and you might find that you enjoy it. **The final project will be a test grade (tests are worth 40% of your grade) so failure to complete it will severely hurt your grade.** This should boost your first semester grade, not hurt it. Please sign below along with a parent or guardian.

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____