

American Literature: Summer work

Please read this ENTIRE document so you know what is expected of you.

You can choose the **podcast assignment or the reading assignment**. Whichever you choose, your work is due on the first day of school: Tuesday, August 23rd.

Podcast Expectations

Instructions:

- **REQUIRED:** Choose one of the podcasts from the following list (provided), and listen to at least 4-10 episodes over the course of the summer. (You MAY listen to more than one podcast this summer, but your written responses should all be for the same one.) Yes, I realize you might already be enjoying a podcast or can “find” others of merit, but stick to the plethora of choice I have provided.
REQUIRED: Choose FOUR episodes of a single podcast on which to write responses. (You will write a total of FOUR responses.)
- **REQUIRED:** Each response must be at least 250 words (about half a page of writing) and should include personal response, analysis, and questions that emerged from the episode. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE.** Use the following questions as a guide:
 - * What do I know/understand now that I didn't before?
 - * How did this episode change the way I think about something?
 - * What is a thought, idea, or perspective that I might not have considered if I hadn't encountered this episode?
- **REQUIRED:** Please include an MLA-style citation of the podcast episode discussed on each response. Click here for guidelines:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_other_common_sources.html

Do NOT just copy and paste the URL, duh.

Reading Expectations

Instructions:

Read two of the following books and write a one, typed, single spaced page reaction on each. This reaction will include your reactions to the characters and events, outstanding themes and your personal connection to the book. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE.**

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Jungle by Sinclair Lewis

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley and Malcolm X

One Shot Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and Magical Baseball Season by Chris Ballard

Interesting Podcasts to Expand your Knowledge

How to listen

- Podcasts can be downloaded for free on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and a number of other websites and apps. Or, you can stream directly from the website on a computer or electronic device.
- Most podcast episodes are 45-60 minutes long, but some are much shorter, around 15 minutes. If you choose a shorter podcast, you should listen to more episodes, or double up.
- Podcasts are typically published once per week on a specific day. You may choose to listen from the beginning, listen to a whole “season,” or listen to new episodes as they are published (a good option if your podcast is about current events).
- Some of these come with a content/language warning. If you get offended, move on, or don't; sometimes it's good to be uncomfortable.

1. Podcasts for keeping up on recent news:

a. The Daily:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/podcasts/the-daily/jobs-economy-coronavirus.html>

b. Up, First

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510318/up-first>

c. Planet Money

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510289/planet-money>

d. It's Been A Minute

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510317/its-been-a-minute-with-sam-sanders>

Each week, It's Been a Minute features people in the culture who deserve your attention. Plus weekly wraps of the news with journalists in the know. Join us to make sense of the world through conversation.

2. This American Life:

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/>

A weekly public radio show, heard by 2.2 million people on more than 500 stations. Another 2.5 million people download the weekly podcast. It is hosted by Ira Glass and has won all of the major broadcasting awards. Really excellent storytelling on a wide variety of topics.

3. The Argument

<https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-argument>

Three journalists, one conservative, one moderate, and one liberal, discuss various political and cultural issues of the day.

4. Codeswitch

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

Hosted by journalists of color, this podcast tackles the subject of race head-on. They explore how it impacts every part of society—from politics and pop culture to history,

sports and everything in between. This podcast makes ALL OF US part of the conversation-because we're all part of the story.

5. Revisionist History

<https://www.pushkin.fm/show/revisionist-history/>

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past — an event, a person, an idea, even a song — and asks whether we got it right the first time. Because sometimes the past deserves a second chance.

6. Uncivil

<https://gimletmedia.com/shows/uncivil>

A history podcast where we go back to the time our divisions turned to war (The Civil War), and bring you stories left out of the official history.

7. The Stoop

<http://www.thestoop.org/>

The Stoop podcast digs into stories that are not always shared out in the open. Hosts Leila Day and Hana Baba start conversations about what it means to be black and how we talk about blackness. It's a celebration of black joy with a mission to dig deeper into stories that we don't hear enough about.

8. Latina to Latina

<https://www.latinatolatina.com/>

In often-hilarious and always-revealing episodes, Alicia Menendez and her guests take on the challenges of existing, and then thriving, as Latinas. They talk about everything, from growing their companies and careers, caring for their families, and breaking down the systems that keep many of us out. Through the laughter and sometimes tears, these intimate conversations feel like we're listening to and learning from our most trusted friend. Latina-owned, produced, and made with love.

9. The History Chicks:

<http://thehistorychicks.com/>

Because we don't teach you enough about women's history in school.

10. 1619

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/podcasts/1619-podcast.html>

An audio series on how slavery has transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling.