# Survey of American Literature

## Overview

This lesson's main goal is to give today's college students a good foundation for classical literature, and help them go into depth for five classic American works. Also going into the meanings and storylines of the pieces. As well as their backgrounds and author's history.

## Objectives

Once the lesson has been completed students should have:

- A solid foundation in the area of American Literature.
- A good understanding of the various classic books they have read.
- Knowledge of the author's information, and other background information about the five books in the course.
- Understanding of the basic themes and ideas that are central to the plots of these five books.
- A better understanding of technology from the completion of their own personal MyStudiyo quiz.

## Standards

1. Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
2. Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many
genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.

3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound–letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

**Materials:**

For this lesson you will need:

- A copy of each of the five books for each student
- An open computer for each student
- Paper, Pencils, Poster board, and other materials needed to give a presentation in class.

**Procedure:**

- First, introduce the students to the 5 classic American novels that you have chosen to cover over the semester. Perhaps give a short summary of what takes place in the book.
- Then explain that as the class goes through these books they will be doing an in-depth analysis on the plot, background information, author, and main themes. You will have to create rubrics ahead of time so your students will have an understanding of what you expect out of their analysis.
- Students will read and concentrate on one book every three weeks, and engage in class discussion. Discussion topics may
include: why it was written, what are major themes, and the personality of the characters. As well as researching background information on this book.

Next students will have to choose a character from the book they have read and complete research on the life of the character’s world and time period. Based on their location, worldview, and the historical events occurring during the story. Then have students create a presentation for the class.

Also run students through the MyStudiyo web page to have them create their own MyStudiyo quiz based on their character, and the information they covered in their presentation. This is will a great way for classmates to test each other over the effectiveness of their presentation.

**Evaluation:**

You may evaluate students based on their work level, creativity, and quality of content on their character on their presentation. Students will also be able to peer review each other's presentations for feedback. Evaluation will also be based on the successfullness of their MyStudiyo quiz against their peers. To encourage each student to focus on the presenter and listen attentively, scores from each quiz they take will also be part of their grade.