Introduction:
There is a simple, basic truth about writing: in order to do it well, you have to see how others have done it. Therefore, each student will be reading books by poets, fiction writers, and playwrights who are acknowledged masters of their craft.

Purpose:
The purpose of the independent reading assignment is to give you a broad interaction with great writing so that you may see the important concepts of the class at work on the page. We can discuss how to make a character believable, but the best way to learn how to do it is by reading the work of a master.

We will be reading as writers. This assignment is intended to show you how good writing is done. You will no doubt like many of the books you read, but there may be some you do not like. All of them should give you plenty to think about as you struggle to become a better writer.

How it will work:
Once we begin, you will always be reading a book by an author on the list. The authors are arranged in three different categories:

1. Fiction
2. Poetry
3. Drama

Our first large unit will be on fiction writing, so your first reading books will come from that list. When we move to our poetry unit, you may choose a book by an author on the poetry list, etc.

I will monitor your reading through your reading journal. (See Reading Journal Instructions). Once we begin the independent reading assignment, you will have to complete three pages of journaling per week on your reading.

Each Friday, I will check to see that your journals are complete. I will collect them regularly to give them letter grades.

At the very least, you are required to read three books this term, one from each category. Doing more will earn you extra credit. You will keep a list of books you complete, at the end of each quarter you will receive points based on the number of books you read. Here is the breakdown:

3 books = 25 points
4 books = 35 points
5 books = 45 points
More: 10 points more/book

A word about difficulty:
The authors on the following list represent a wide range of styles, tastes, and difficulties. I have placed a star (*) by those authors who are especially challenging. Even if you do not consider yourself a strong reader, there will be many authors on the list you can read, enjoy, and learn from. See me if you have special questions about this. My advice is to try some of the harder books as they also offer some of the most exciting, groundbreaking, and unusual writing.

Authors of Fiction --these can be novels, short story collections, or collected writings.

Edgar Allen Poe
Truman Capote
Mary Shelley
Mark Twain
Alexander Dumas
Henry James
Emily Bronte
Stephen Crane
Charlotte Bronte
Willa Cather
Gustave Flaubert *
Jack London
Sinclair Lewis
Louisa May Alcott
Katherine Anne Porter
Robert Louis Stevenson
John Dos Passos *
H.G. Wells
F. Scott Fitzgerald

Bram Stoker
William Faulkner
John Steinbeck
Zora Neale Hurston
Cervantes
Nathaniel West
Daniel Defoe
Eudora Welty
James Fenimore Cooper
Bernard Malamud
Saul Bellow
Kate Chopin
Norman Mailer
George Orwell
Flannery O’Connor
Herman Melville *
Malcolm Lowry *
Jules Verne
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Toni Morrison

N. Scott Momaday
E. Annie Proulx
Joyce Carol Oates
Mark Helprin
Albert Camus
Robert Coover *
Steven Millhauser
Jorge Luis Borges
Salman Rushdie
Vladimir Nabokov *
Paul Bowles
Alain Robbe-Grillet *
Jack Kerouac
John Barth *
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Franz Kafka
Charles Dickens
Donald Barthelme
Kurt Vonnegut
Virginia Woolf *
**Authors of Poetry** --these can be individual books or collected poems. They may NOT be anthologies featuring many poets.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Walt Whitman</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bishop</td>
<td>Sylvia Plath</td>
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<td>John Engels</td>
<td>Donald Justice</td>
<td>Maxine Kumin</td>
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<td>Emily Dickenson</td>
<td>John Berryman</td>
<td>Gary Snyder</td>
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<td>Carolyn Forche</td>
<td>Galway Kinnell</td>
<td>Rita Dove</td>
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<td>Gertrude Stein *</td>
<td>Robert Lowell</td>
<td>Langston Hughes</td>
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<td>Louise Gluck</td>
<td>Carolyn Kizer</td>
<td>Denise Levertov</td>
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<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td>Richard Wilbur</td>
<td>Gregory Corso</td>
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<td>Robert Hass</td>
<td>Stanley Kunitz</td>
<td>Federico Garcia Lorca</td>
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<td>William Carlos</td>
<td>James Dickey</td>
<td>Pablo Neruda</td>
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<td>Williams?</td>
<td>Philip Levine</td>
<td>Andre Breton</td>
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<td>H.D.</td>
<td>Allen Ginsberg</td>
<td>Robert Frost</td>
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<td>Wallace Stevens</td>
<td>Marianne Moore</td>
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<td>Seamus Heaney</td>
<td>Frank O’Hara</td>
<td>Anna Akhmatova</td>
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<td>Anthony Hecht</td>
<td>Robert Pinsky</td>
<td>Carlos Drummond De</td>
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<td>T.S. Eliot *</td>
<td>John Ashberry *</td>
<td>Andrade</td>
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<td>Zbiniew Herbert</td>
<td>Cesar Vallejo</td>
<td>W.H. Auden</td>
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<td>E.E. Cummings</td>
<td>W.S. Merwin</td>
<td>C.P. Cavafy</td>
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<td>John Hollander</td>
<td>Robert Penn Warren</td>
<td>Paul Celan</td>
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<td>Hart Crane</td>
<td>Anne Sexton</td>
<td>Amy Clampitt</td>
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<td>Ted Hughes</td>
<td>Charles Wright</td>
<td>Stephen Dobyns</td>
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<td>Theodore Roethke</td>
<td>Adrienne Rich</td>
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<td>Richard Hugo</td>
<td>Michael McClure</td>
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**Authors of Drama** --these can be individual plays or collected plays.

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<td>Tennessee Williams</td>
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<td>Arthur Miller</td>
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<td>Henrik Ibsen</td>
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<td>Anton Chekov</td>
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<td>Thorton Wilder</td>
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<td>Moliere *</td>
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