



# Reavis High School

## Curriculum Snapshot for American Literature



### Unit 1: Colonial Literature

25  
Days

Students will understand the motivation behind the earliest styles of American literature. Students will identify the reasons for settlement of various cultures on the North American continent, and understand how growing tensions between Britain and the colonies led to the Revolutionary War. Students will learn about characteristics that define Puritan literature and literature from the Age of Reason through interpretation and analysis of poems, speeches, and other non-fiction works. They will also continue to develop their ability to craft quality, argumentative thesis statements.



### Unit 2: American Romanticism

25  
Days

Students will understand reasons for the shift from classical styles and topics to American Romanticism, and how Gothic Literature further departed from there. Students will learn about characteristics that define these literary movements through interpretation and analysis of poems, short stories, and essays. Students will also practice supporting interpretations with textual evidence and embedding properly cited quotes in a paragraph.



## Unit 3: Realism

35  
Days

Students will understand the roles the Civil War and massive expansion (geographic, social, & cultural) played in influencing writers across the country during this time period. Students will learn about characteristics that define Realism through interpretation and analysis of speeches, and short stories. Students will practice adding depth to an interpretation through their selection and analysis of textual evidence.



## Unit 4: American Modernism

25  
Days

Students will understand how changes in society affected changes in literature during the early 20th century, from the how WWI changed Americans' views of the world to the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. Students will learn about the characteristics of Modern poetry and fiction, as well as characteristics of the Harlem Renaissance through interpretation, analysis, and comparison of poems and short stories. Students will demonstrate the ability to use academic voice as they form their own interpretation of a text, support it with textual evidence from a variety of sources, and cite their sources on an MLA Works Cited page.



## Unit 5: *The Great Gatsby*

35  
Days

Students will understand how the corruption and extravagance of the 1920s influenced Fitzgerald's work. Students will negotiate the differences between money and love in the novel, while recognizing that love and money will never be divorced in Gatsby's version of the American dream. Throughout the reading, students will interpret and analyze significant excerpts, understand and analyze the relationship between narrative elements (conflict, climax, characterization, etc), and examine the novel within the context of the period in which it was written. Through both organic/student-led discussions and writing, students will demonstrate the ability to form, support, and argue against various interpretations of the text.



## Unit 6: Diverse Voices

25  
Days

Students will understand how diverse voices in contemporary literature reflect life in America today. Students will study the perspectives and values offered through interpretation and analysis of poems, shorts stories, and personal narratives by authors from various, traditionally under-represented backgrounds. Students will continue to hone their analytical skills as they form interpretations and support them with textual evidence.