

## **American Literature and the Essay, Form III**

### **Course Description**

Junior English, a pre-AP® course, enhances the reading and writing skills introduced and developed during their frosh and sophomore English classes. American literature, from its roots through the twentieth century, will be studied in accordance with their study of American history, so that each student will sense how literature expresses the experiences and concerns of society and culture. Observance of the elements of literary structure and literary devices will accompany our study of literature. In-class writings will help focus our perceptions into ideas. Along with the customary essays of literary analysis, other modes of writing and rhetoric will be experienced: narrative, descriptive, definition, argument and persuasion. The course will also involve various creative exercises in response to the literature.

### **Course Goals**

That the student will:

- Glean perceptions from her/his reading of the literature
- Learn to build her/his perceptions into an idea
- Turn her/his idea into an essay
- Discover and become attuned to her/his individual 'voice'
- Experience and trust the knowledge that discussion delivers
- Encounter the wonder of hearing the 'voice' of another
- Appreciate literature and sense its worth
- Sense the value of literature and the inherent worth of writing

### **Course Objectives**

- To prepare the student for successful Advance Placement® study
- To examine how American literature expresses cultural and societal norms
- To apply basic writing skills to more refined modes of expression
- To develop the ability to analyze the basic elements of literary structure and device
- To understand the fundamentals of rhetorical strategy
- To write a successful SAT®-style essay
- To write a research paper in accord with the MLA® Style

