

# Kolbe Academy Home School

## JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE

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**COURSE TITLE:** Literature

**COURSE TEXTS:** Accelerated Reader (AR) levels are given for each work if available. Kolbe Academy recommended grade levels are given only as suggestions based on difficulty of the reading and maturity level needed for themes addressed in the work. The course plans were written using the versions carried by Kolbe Academy, according to their T number in parenthesis after the book title below. While typically any version may be used, Kolbe has chosen these particular editions due to their unabridged status as well as appropriate content in the forwards and afterwards.

**Novels:**

Title	Author	Course Plan Weeks	Book Page Code	AR Reading Level	Kolbe Rec. Reading Level
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> (T3946)	Mark Twain	5 weeks	A	8.1	7
<i>Animal Farm</i> (T3938)	George Orwell	4 weeks	B	7.3	8
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> (T3942)	L.M. Montgomery	4 weeks	C	7.3	7
<i>The Black Arrow</i> (T3957)	Robert Louis Stevenson	3 weeks	D	9.0	7
<i>Dandelion Wine</i> (T3953)	Ray Bradbury	4 weeks	E	6.0	7
<i>Diary of a Young Girl</i> (T3937)	Anne Frank	6 weeks	F	6.5	8
<i>Fellowship of the Rings</i> (T3936)	J. R. R. Tolkien	5 weeks	G	6.1	7
<i>Little Women</i> (T3940)	Louisa May Alcott	5 weeks	H	7.9	7
<i>Merchant of Venice</i> (T3959)	William Shakespeare	4 weeks	J	9.4	8
<i>Oliver Twist</i> (T3956)	Charles Dickens	6 weeks	K	10.1	8
<i>Out of the Silent Planet</i> (T3967)	C.S. Lewis	3 weeks	L	7.4	8
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (T3955)	Jane Austen	4 weeks	M	12.0	8
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> (T3944)	Stephen Crane	3 weeks	N	7.6	7
<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (T3951)	Daniel Defoe	4 weeks	P	12.3	7
<i>The Screwtape Letters</i> (T3945)	C.S. Lewis	4 weeks	Q	8.8	8
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> (T3943)	Charles Dickens	7 weeks	R	9.7	8
<i>Treasure Island</i> (T3949)	Robert Louis Stevenson	4 weeks	T	8.3	7
<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> (T3935)	Jules Verne	6 weeks	U	10.0	7
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (T3960)	Harriet Beecher Stowe	6 weeks	V	8.2	8
<i>The Yearling</i> (T3966)	Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings	4 weeks	W	7.3	7

**Lives of the saints:**

Title	Author	Course Plan Weeks	Book Page Code	Kolbe Rec. Reading Level
<i>St. Athanasius</i> (T2728)	Mother Frances Forbes	2 weeks	AA	8
<i>St. Benedict</i> (T2707)	Mary Fabyan Windeatt	2 weeks	BB	7
<i>St. Edmund Campion</i> (T3961)	Harold C. Gardiner	3 weeks	CC	7
<i>St. Ignatius</i> (T3962)	August Derleth	2 weeks	DD	8
<i>Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha</i> (T3972)	Evelyn M. Brown	2 weeks	EE	7

<i>St. Maria Goretti</i> (T3963)	Fr. Godfrey Poage	2 weeks	FF	8
<i>St. Maximilian Kolbe</i> (T2725)	Fr. Jeremiah J. Smith	3 weeks	GG	7
<i>Blessed Miguel Pro</i> (T3964)	Ann Ball	2 weeks	HH	7
<i>St. Paul the Apostle</i> (T2718)	Mary Fabyan Windeatt	3 weeks	JJ	8
<i>St. Teresa of Avila</i> (T2726)	Mother Frances Forbes	2 weeks	KK	8

**Short Stories (a one-quarter long course)**

- ❖ Included in *The Gift of the Magi and Other Short Stories* available through Kolbe Academy. (T3947)
- Included in *Three Short Stories* printed by Kolbe Academy and available through the bookstore. (T3939)
- Available in separate books through Kolbe Academy bookstore. (T number indicated below)

	Short Story (In order of appearance)	Author	AR Reading Level	Kolbe Rec. Level
❖	<i>The Ransom of Red Chief</i>	O. Henry	6.3	7 <sup>th</sup> graders: There are several Christmas themed stories, so it may be a nice fit during the quarter that falls closest to that time.
❖	<i>The Last Leaf</i>	O. Henry	6.1	
❖	<i>The Gift of the Magi</i>	O. Henry	6.2	
➤	<i>The Story of the Other Wise Man</i> (T3954)	Henry Van Dyke	5.2	
➤	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> (T3968)	Ernest Hemingway	8.9	
•	<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i>	Washington Irving	9.2	
•	<i>The Red Headed League</i>	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	7.8	
•	<i>The Devil and Daniel Webster</i>	Stephen Vincent Benet	7.9	
➤	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (T3941)	Charles Dickens	6.7	

**Poetry (a one-quarter long course):**

- Included in *A Collection of Poetry* printed by Kolbe Academy and available in the bookstore. (T3411)
- ❖ Printed by Kolbe Academy and available through the bookstore. (T3412)

	Poem (In order of appearance)	Author	Kolbe Rec. Level
•	<i>The Highwayman</i>	Alfred Noyes	Kolbe Academy recommends the poetry course for 8 <sup>h</sup> graders.
•	<i>Lochinvar</i>	Sir Walter Scott	
•	<i>The Wreck of the Hesperus</i>	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	
•	<i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>	Samuel T. Coleridge	
•	<i>O Captain! My Captain</i>	Walt Whitman	
•	<i>Sea Fever</i>	John Masefield	
•	<i>Crossing the Bar</i>	Alfred Lord Tennyson	
•	<i>The Lonely Street</i>	William Carlos Williams	
•	<i>School's Out</i>	William Henry Davies	
•	<i>Daffodils</i>	William Wordsworth	
•	<i>The Waterfall</i>	Barbara Frances Lloyd	
•	<i>The Raven</i>	Edgar Allen Poe	
•	<i>The Naming of Cats</i>	T.S. Eliot	
•	<i>The Panther</i>	Ogden Nash	
•	<i>If</i>	Rudyard Kipling	
•	<i>The Jabberwocky</i>	Lewis Carroll	

•	<i>God's Grandeur</i>	Gerard Hopkins	
•	<i>An Irish Airman Foresees His Death</i>	W.B. Yeats	
•	<i>Anthem to Doomed Youth</i>	Wilfred Owen	
•	<i>Charge of the Light Brigade</i>	Alfred Lord Tennyson	
❖	<i>The Song of Hiawatha</i>	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	

**Additional books needed for the course:**

Junior High Literature Study Question, Vocab, and Glossary Booklet – 3 book set), T3980

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The junior high literature program introduces the student to literature in a deeper, more rigorous fashion than previous reading courses. The course is comprised of classic literature, poetry, short stories, and the lives of saints. There is a suggested amount of time in which to cover each book. Parents, possibly with the assistance of the student, are to select the proper number of books to fit into each quarter. A complete course in poetry and a complete course of short stories are included; each is designed to cover one quarter. A well-rounded literature course for each year might include novels and lives of saints for three quarters and either the poetry or the short story course for one quarter. Please note that there is more material provided in this course than is necessary to use over the span of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

For some of the books listed in the course plan we have recommended reading the introduction and/or preface. Many times they contain pertinent background information that will help the student more fully understand what he is about to read. When we have made the recommendation to read these, it is based on the editions of the book that we carry. Parents should take care to read any introductory material in editions other than ours before assigning the material to students. Oftentimes, especially in more recent editions of books, the introductory materials contain objectionable thoughts and ideas.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The student is to be introduced to:

- ❖ the world in literature
- ❖ the world of imagination
- ❖ the world of others' minds
- ❖ a Christian approach to literature

**COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY:**

Kolbe Academy has worked diligently to create the best possible course plans with the home schooling family in mind. Remember, however, that our program is intended to be flexible. Per the principle of subsidiarity, these course plans are a **suggested** course of study. As the teacher, you should adapt and modify these course plans to meet the individual learning needs of your child. **Do not feel obligated to follow these course plans exactly.** The following are a few general guidelines and ideas for using the Literature course:

1. Each Novel and some of the Saint books include weekly written assignment topics. We suggest assigning these at the beginning of the week so that the student has time to think about the topic as he reads. For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, written essays should be well developed and span about 3

paragraphs: an introductory paragraph with a thesis or topic sentence, one paragraph to explore the thesis, and a conclusion.

2. After the student has read the daily assignment, a short quiz, either oral or written, could be given based on the chapter descriptions included in the course plan. Some of the course plans include study questions that are perfect for this type of quiz.
3. The Friday reading assignment may be longer and the student may need to read over the weekend.
4. There is a final exam for each book which can be used when the student is finished reading the book or a combination of tests may be used during exam week typical with other subjects.
5. After each book, the student should write a book report following the Kolbe Academy format (see pages 8-10 of the syllabus). In Junior High, the focus of the book report should be the analysis of the plot/theme, not a simple summary of the book.
6. Note that the last week of each book's course plan is reserved for writing the book report and taking the final exam on the book. Part of this week could also be used for any catch-up work on reading. It would be good for the student to write a rough draft of the book report and a final draft.

#### **SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED:**

There are five principles that are essential for the student to understand and apply in reading literature:

- ❖ Read with objective charity
- ❖ Understand that the parts do not condemn the whole
- ❖ Recognize sin as such when he encounters it in his reading
- ❖ Avoid works that contain tempting descriptions of sin
- ❖ Understand that the function of fiction is not primarily to teach

There are four principles on the function of literature:

- ❖ Art is a moral activity
- ❖ Literature is fundamentally religious
- ❖ Art inspires
- ❖ Art is a means of charity

Notes: For an explanation of these principles, consult *Tenets for Readers and Reviewers*, available from Kolbe Academy Press.

#### **CHOOSING BOOKS FOR A YEAR'S COURSE OF STUDY:**

Kolbe Academy has provided an extensive amount of literature to study over the course of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As such, **students are NOT expected to cover all of the material** included in the Junior High Literature course. Please take note of the following guidelines to aid you in choosing the best course of study for your student each year.

1. In choosing the course of study for an individual student, parents should consider the maturity level and gender of the student, reoccurring themes and events being studied in the student's history and religion coursework, and overall interests of the student.

2. Parents should take note of the number of weeks assigned to each work and choose a sufficient number of works to cover a year long course in Literature. For example, since a typical Kolbe Academy school year is 36 weeks long, a student might study the quarter long course on Poetry (9 weeks), *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (6 weeks), St. Paul the Apostle (3 weeks), *Merchant of Venice* (4 weeks), *Oliver Twist* (5 weeks), *St. Benedict* (2 weeks), *Tale of Two Cities* (5 weeks), and *Blessed Miguel Pro* (2 weeks) for a total of 36 weeks. A balance of novels, saint books, and either the Short Story or Poetry course is a good aim to have for each year. See the course text chart below for a list of books with number of weeks.
3. Kolbe has provided **suggested grade levels** for each work to aid the parent in choosing appropriate books for their student's grade level. These are based on maturity level needed for themes present in the work, difficulty of vocabulary, and overall difficulty of the material presented in the work. See the course text chart below for a list of books with grade level.
4. A parent may wish to choose certain works to study during a given year due to themes studied concurrently in the student's other coursework. For example, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is a work that is appropriate to read when a student is studying the Civil War in a history course.
5. For those that prefer to study works using a **thematic approach**, a list of books and major themes have been provided in this syllabus on page 6 for your convenience.

#### **LITERATURE THEMES:**

**Historical Fiction:** *Little Women, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Red Badge of Courage, Tale of Two Cities, The Black Arrow, Oliver Twist*

**Civil War Era:** *Tom Sawyer* (slavery as normal way of life), *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (reality of slavery), *Red Badge of Courage* (the war), *Little Women* (the home front)

**Political/War/Revolution:** *Animal Farm, Tale of Two Cities, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Red Badge of Courage, Diary of a Young Girl, The Black Arrow*

**Adventure/Intrigue:** *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (the beginner's adventure), *Fellowship of the Ring, Robinson Crusoe, Treasure Island, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, The Black Arrow*

**Fantasy/Science Fiction:** *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Out of the Silent Planet, Fellowship of the Rings*

**Love/Romance:** *Little Women, Pride and Prejudice, Anne of Green Gables*

**Inspirational/Strong Moral/Virtue:** *Anne of Green Gables, Little Women, Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Yearling, Fellowship of the Ring, The Screwtape Letters, Animal Farm, Oliver Twist, Robinson Crusoe, Diary of a Young Girl*

**Coming of Age:** *Anne of Green Gables, The Yearling, Little Women, Dandelion Wine, Pride and Prejudice, Red Badge of Courage, Diary of a Young Girl*

**Strong Female Roles:** *Uncle Tom's Cabin, Anne of Green Gables, Little Women, Pride and Prejudice, Merchant of Venice, Diary of a Young Girl, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Maria Goretti, St. Teresa of Avila*

**Strong Male Roles:** *Red Badge of Courage, Fellowship of the Ring, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Treasure Island, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Black Arrow, St. Athanasius, St. Benedict, St. Ignatius, St. Edmund Campion, Blessed Miguel Pro, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Paul the Apostle*

**Merry Olde England:** *Oliver Twist, A Tale of Two Cities, Pride and Prejudice*

**Compare/Contrast Ideas:** **Failed Utopias** - *Animal Farm vs. Tale of Two Cities*, **Isolation** - *Robinson Crusoe, Diary of a Young Girl*; **Orphans** - *Anne of Green Gables, Oliver Twist*; **Good vs. bad children** - *Little Women, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Anne of Green Gables, Pride and Prejudice*; **Good vs. Evil** - *The Screwtape Letters, Uncle Tom's Cabin, A Tale of Two Cities, Oliver Twist*; **Justice and Mercy** - *Merchant of Venice vs. A Tale of Two Cities*.