

E1: Introduction to Literature

E2: Literature and Composition

E3: American Literature

E4: British Literature

E5: World Literature

Module 1: Short Stories by-

- Sarah Orne Jewett: A White Heron
- Edgar Allen Poe: The Purloined Letter (This one is not scary, if you're concerned about that.)
- Guy de Maupassant: The Diamond Necklace
- O. Henry: The Ransom of Red Chief
- Eudora Welty: A Worn Path
- James Thurber: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

Module 2: *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne
Honors: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne

Module 3: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain
Honors: *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain

Module 4: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
Honors: *Shirley* or *Villette* by Charlotte Brontë

Module 5: *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw
Honors: *Murder in the Cathedral* by T. S. Eliot

Module 6: *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
Honors: *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Module 7: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
Honors: *1984* by George Orwell

Module 8: *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare
Honors: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

Module 9: *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
Honors: *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

Module 1: *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel DeFoe
Honors: *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss or *The Further Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel DeFoe
Optional: The book of *Jonah* (any translation) and *Grace Abounding to the Chiefest of Sinners* by John Bunyan

Module 2: *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau
Honors: "Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau and "Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Module 3: *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
Honors: *The Man in the Iron Mask* or *The Three Musketeers* by Dumas

Module 4: *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
Honors: *Manalive* by G. K. Chesterton

Module 5: *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis
Honors: *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis

Module 6: *Death Comes to the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
Honors: *Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett

Module 7: *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
Honors: *King John* by William Shakespeare

Module 8: *Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott
Honors: *Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare or *Rob Roy* by Scott

Module 9: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
Honors: *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling

Module 1: *Autobiography* by Benjamin Franklin
Honors: *The Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson*, *Letters From An American Farmer* by J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur

Module 2: *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving; Works by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Honors: *Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, and *The Life of George Washington* or *Tales of the Alhambra* by W. Irving

Module 3: *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper
Honors: *The Pioneers* by James Fenimore Cooper

Module 4: *The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Honors: *The Scarlet Letter* by N. Hawthorne; *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau

Module 5: *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
Honors: *Billy Budd* by Herman Melville

Module 6: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
Honors: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass; *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Module 7: *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton
Honors: *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton; *Daisy Miller* by Henry James

Module 8: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Honors: *My Antonia* by Willa Cather or *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry

Module 9: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
Honors: *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway

Module 1: *Beowulf*
Honors: *The Dream of the Rood* and *Caedmon's Hymn* or *The Battle of Malden*

Module 2: *Canterbury Tales* (selected) by Geoffrey Chaucer

- Prologue
- The Nun Priest's Prologue and Tale
- The Reeve's Prologue and Tale
- The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale
- The Magistrate's Prologue and Tale
- The Canon's Yeoman's Prologue and Tale

Honors: *Piers Plowman* by William Langland

Module 3: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*; *The Faerie Queene* (Book 1) by Edmund Spenser; "Letters to Raleigh"
Honors: *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory

Module 4: *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
Honors: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

Module 5: *Paradise Lost* by John Milton
Honors: *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan (if not read in English I) or *The Temple* by George Herbert (Poetry Collection)

Module 6: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
Honors: *Persuasion* or other novel by Jane Austen and *Middlemarch* by George Eliot

Module 7: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
Honors: *Oliver Twist* or *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens and *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray

Module 8: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
Honors: *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by A. Brontë or *Jane Eyre* by C. Brontë or *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Module 9: *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf
Honors: *Space Trilogy* by C.S. Lewis

Module 1: *The Odyssey* by Homer
Honors: *The Iliad* by Homer

Module 2: *Antigone* by Sophocles
The Burial at Thebes: A Version of Sophocles' Antigone by Seamus Heaney
Honors: *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

Module 3: *The Aeneid* by Virgil
Honors: *Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans* by Plutarch

Module 4: *Divine Comedy: Inferno* by Dante
Honors: *Paradisio* and/or *Purgatorio* by Dante

Module 5: *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes
Honors: *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens

Module 6: *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo
Honors: *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* by Victor Hugo or *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville

Module 7: *The Portable Nineteenth Century Russian Reader* edited by George Gibian
Honors: *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Module 8: *Faust* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Honors: *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis (if you didn't read it in English II) and *The Picture of Dorian Grey* by Oscar Wilde or *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley or *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe

Module 9: *Out of Africa* and "Babette's Feast" by Isak Dinesen
Honors: *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* by C. S. Lewis



Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for taking a look at Excellence in Literature (EIL). In this one-sheet overview, you'll find a few details about the curriculum, information about how I chose the books, and a bit about me. I hope it helps you better understand EIL and how it works.

The most important thing to know about Excellence in Literature is that it's flexible. Although the books are arranged strategically and the modules graduate in difficulty, I want parents to feel free to pick and choose what to use when, whether to shorten assignments or take a little longer on a module than suggested, or match literature levels with history studies. It's a curriculum that's meant to be a delight, and to spark joy in the discovery of wonderful stories, plays, and poems. I want students to emerge, not just knowing a lot about the literature of Western Civilization, but also loving it. I hope you'll enjoy your time with EIL. If you have questions, please visit ExcellenceinLiterature.com, where you will find complete information, more articles, and the study guides.

Warmly,

Janice Campbell

How I chose the books

I've had many questions about how I chose the books for Excellence in Literature, so I wrote a nice, long explanation of all the factors that went into the final decisions. As you can guess, it wasn't easy to sort through centuries of great literature to end up with 45 focus texts and about 45 honors texts, balanced between novels, drama, and epic poetry. It was fun, though— what a great excuse to read and read and read! Here are some of the questions I considered when choosing what to include:

- Is this work foundational to an understanding of Western Civilization and culture?
- Is it a classic work that is regularly alluded to in current conversation (including newspaper, radio, books, movies, etc.)?
- Does it tell the truth about life and consequences?
- Is there something compelling about this particular work that makes it, more than another, deserve a place in the curriculum?
- Does it offer a unique perspective on the culture of its time and place?
- Does it have the power to engage readers and cause them to think deeply about important issues?
- Is it well-written?
- Has it endured the test of time?

Read the complete article here: <http://doingwhatmatters.com/how-i-chose-great-books-for-excellence-in-literature/>

What's Special About Excellence in Literature?

- Self-directed courses encourage independent learning and college-style study habits.
- There are nine four-week modules with week-by-week lesson plans in each school year, which makes it easy to know what to do when.
- Every volume contains instructions, models, and a glossary, so you can start with any book and know exactly what to do.
- Context readings provide in-depth understanding of literature in its historic and artistic context (and links are regularly updated).
- Honors Option includes extra reading and provides the opportunity to earn advanced placement or college credit.
- Modules may be mixed and matched to create a custom study plan.
- Honors books may be substituted for focus texts if desired.
- Each volume is available as a print book or e-book
- The curriculum site, Excellence-in-Literature.com, hosts context resources, including poetry, author biographies, and much more.
- Each one-year study guide is \$29 (print) or \$44 (print and ebook)
- You can read more about it at www.ExcellenceinLiterature.com.
- My email: janice@doingwhatmatters.com.

Who's Janice Campbell?

Janice and her husband Donald homeschooled their four sons from preschool into college, with a lifestyle of learning approach inspired by Charlotte Mason and classical methods. She holds a B.A. in English (honors) from Mary Baldwin College, and has worked as a freelance writer, editor, and conference speaker since the 1980s.

Janice has focused on writing and speaking about things that matter for over two decades. She is the author of the *Excellence in Literature* curriculum for grades 8-12, *Transcripts Made Easy*, and *Get a Jump Start on College*. She is also Director of the National Association of Independent Writers and Editors (NAIWE). Whether teaching high school students to love literature or parents to be more inspired or effective teachers, Janice's focus is on sharing the joy of the journey and lighting lamps so that others can more easily find their way. Her websites offer inspiration, resources, and a free e-newsletter.

My websites

Bookstore with my books: Everyday-Education.com

Learning Resources: Excellence-in-Literature.com

Blog: DoingWhatMatters.com



Janice Campbell

making time for things that matter.