



## 1900s Literature Part I – Syllabus

**Course Description:** An excerpt-based class, students are introduced to primary works of literature from the early and middle 1900s, including Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life* (1902); poems by Robert Frost (1874-1963) and Edgar A. Guest (1881-1959), *Pygmalion* (1912); poems and works by Langston Hughes (1902-1967); *Johnny Tremain* (1943), *The Diary of a Young Girl* (1947), and an overview of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series by C.S. Lewis (1950-1956). All texts are included as part of the class; no additional materials required.

*Essay Basics* or equivalent experience writing five-paragraph essays is strongly recommended.

### Course Outline:

#### **Week One:** Welcome to the 1900s

- Historical overview from 1900-1950
- Helen Keller – *The Story of My Life*
- Narrative Writing

#### **Week Two:** Reading Between the Lines

- Poetry Foundations
- “The People's Poet” – Edgar A. Guest
- Poetry Analysis with Robert Frost

#### **Week Three:** Introduction to the Stage

- How to Read a Play
- George Bernard Shaw
- *Pygmalion*

#### **Week Four:** The Stories of His People

- Langston Hughes & The Harlem Renaissance
- Analyzing Writing Voice

**Week Five:** A Living, Breathing Story

- Meet Esther Forbes
- Overview of Historical Fiction
- *Johnny Tremain – A Story of Boston in Revolt*
- Comparison of Different Forms of Writing with a study of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's iconic poem “Paul Revere's Ride”

**Week Six:** *The Diary of a Young Girl*

- Why Anne Frank Matters
- Historical Backdrop
- Putting Ourselves in Anne's Shoes

**Week Seven:** *The Chronicles of Narnia*

- Meet C.S. Lewis
- Welcome to Narnia
- Choose Your Own Adventure . . .

**Week Eight:** *The Chronicles of Narnia* & Final Response

- Complete Narnia Reading
- Choose Your Own Final Response . . .

**Grading Information:** All assignments will be graded using *The Growing Writer Rubric* and averaged to receive a final course grade.