**American Literature B – Social Themes in Literature and Informational Texts**

Social themes in literature focus on the concerns of a particular group of people. The concerns of these groups generally relate to a specific time and place in history. By illuminating the issues for discussion, literature becomes a powerful tool for social change. As we progress through this project, examine how social issues in literature help create a social dialogue to improve the conditions of social justice in our society.

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| Part | Task and Sources | Product |
| A | **Synthesis Essay** 3-5 page essay examining the challenges facing women at the turn of the 20th century. Choose a variety from the following sources:   * “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin * “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman * “A Pair of Silk Stockings” by Kate Chopin * “If I Were a Man” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman * “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell * “April Showers” by Edith Wharton * Suffragette images and news footage * Newspaper article “Destroying Beauty” April 1896 * *Iron Jawed Angels* – film * “Bad Romance”: Women’s Suffrage <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYQhRCs9IHM> * “Rest Cure” by Tricia Ellis-Christensen | * Textual Evidence with MLA citations for each source (summative) * Informational Essay (summative) |
| B | **Argumentative Essay** – Using one of the following early 20th century social issues, write an editorial essay for a newspaper or letter to a Congressman that expresses your ideas about how this issue should be handled in the early 20th American society.   * Racial prejudice * Religious prejudice * Economic hardship * Unfair working conditions * Gender inequality * Cultural prejudice | * Textual Evidence with MLA citations for each source of the chosen social issue (minimum three) (summative) * Editorial Letter (Essay) (summative) |
| C | **Glogster** or other digital presentation – create a digital promotion of equal rights for your chosen social issue group above. Website: Cool Tools for Schools | * formative |
| D | **Presentation** – **Digital and** **speaking** | * formative |
| E | **Reflection Essay** – 250 words | * formative |