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CURRICULUM

The Literature of Sustainability

Introduction

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We'll read, analyze, and synthesize the literature of sustainability from journalism to speculative fiction through a genre-bending magnifying glass. We will investigate messages that overlap and intertwine, filtered through the issues of social, political, economic, and environmental sustainability. We will debate our impressions, acknowledging that perhaps the richest insights are best expressed through literature: writers whose vision and imagination record and distill the pulse of transformation catalyzed by hunger, greed, and technology are illuminated in bas relief for all to see. We will identify recurring themes and determine what conclusions can be drawn by reading, writing, discussing, and analyzing. What light can we shed on the greater issues of sustainability – climate change, food systems, energy, water conservation, to name a few? What solutions do these works suggest?

- *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau_1854
- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair_1906
- *Growth of the Soil* by Knut Hamsen_1920
- *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck_1931
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck_1939
- *The Monkey Wrench Gang* by Edward Abbey_1975
- *The Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols_1988
- *The Price of Land in Shelby* by Laurie Alberts_1996
- *A Friend of the Earth* by T.C. Boyle_2000
- *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood_2003
- *Forty Signs of Rain* by Kim Stanley Robinson_2004
- *World Made by Hand* by James Howard Kunstler_2008
- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver_2008
- *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi_2009
- *No Cure For Nature* by Dan Schwartz_2009
- *What are People For?* by Wendell Berry_2010
- *A Being Darkly Wise* by John Atcheson_2012
- *A Mother's Right* by Diane J. Bleyer_2013