MA American Literature Comps Reading List—
The Core

Drama
Miller, Arthur
O’Neill, Eugene
Williams, Tennessee

Death of a Salesman
Long Day’s Journey into Night
The Glass Menagerie

Non-Fiction
Adams, Henry
Baldwin, James
Bradford, William

“The Virgin and the Dynamo”
“Notes of a Native Son”

Edwards, Jonathan
Eiseley, Loren
Emerson, Ralph W.
Franklin, Benjamin
Douglass, Frederick
Hughes, Langston
King, Martin Luther, Jr.
LaFlesche, Francis
Leopold, Aldo
Momaday, N. Scott
Rowlandson, Mary
Thoreau, Henry David
Williams, Terry T.

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
“The Bird and the Machine”
“Nature”
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
“The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”
“I Have a Dream”
The Middle Five
“Thinking Like a Mountain”
The Way to Rainy Mountain
Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration
Walden
“Clan of the One Breast Women”

Novels
Cather, Willa
Erdich, Louise
Hawthorne, Nathaniel
Jewett, Sarah Orne
Silko, Leslie Marmon
Steinbeck, John
Twain, Mark

O Pioneers
Love Medicine
A Scarlet Letter
Country of the Pointed Firs
Ceremony
The Grapes of Wrath
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Poetry
Alexie, Sherman
Bradstreet, Ann
Brooks, Gwendolyn
Cullen, Countee
Cummings, E. E.

“On the Amtrak from Boston to New York City”
“Crazy Horse Speaks”; “Evolution”
“The Flesh and the Spirit”; “To My Dear and Loving Husband”
“Upon the Burning of our House”;
“To My Dear Children”
“Kitchenette Building”; “The Mother”
“We Real Cool”; “Sadie and Maud”
“Heritage”

“in Just—"; “O sweet spontaneous”
“the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls”
"next to of course god America i"
"I sing Olaf glad and big"; "anyone lived in a pretty how town"
"my father moved through dooms of love"

Dickinson, Emily
"Faith' is a fine invention"; "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain"
"This World is not Conclusion"; "The Brain—is wider than the Sky—"
"A narrow Fellow in the Grass"; "Tell all the Turh but tell it slant—"
"I never lost as much but twice"; "Success is counted sweetest"
"I'm 'wife'—I've finished that—"; "I tasted liquor never brewed"
"Wild Nights—Wild Nights!"; "There's a certain Slant of Light"
"He fumbles at your Soul"; "Some keep the Sabbath going to Church"; "I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—"
"Publication—is the Auction"; "My Life had stood—a loaded Gun"; "The Bible is an antique Volume—"; "Apparently with no surprise"

Dove, Rita
"Adolescence (I, II, III)"; "Bannecker"
"The Event"; "Straw Hat"
"The Zeppelin Factory"; "Heroes"; "Rosa"

Dunbar, Paul Laurence
"Sympathy"; "We Wear the Mask"

Eliot, T. S.
"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Frost, Robert
"Mending Wall"; "After Apple-Picking"
"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"

Giovanni, Nikki
"Nikki-Rosa"

Harjo, Joy
"She Had Some Horses"; "Deer Ghost"

Hogan, Linda
from Seeing Through the Sun: "The Truth Is"
"Tiva's Tapestry: La Liorona"

Hughes, Langston
"The Negro Speaks of Rivers"; "Mother to Son"
"The Weary Blues"; "I, Too"
"Refugee in America"; "Madam’s Calling Cards"
"Note on Commercial Theatre"; "Democracy"
"Harlem"; "Dream Variations"
"Theme for English B"

Knight, Etheridge
"Hard Rock Returns to Prison from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane"
"A WASP Woman Visits a Black Junkie in Prison"

Kooser, Ted
from Delights and Shadows: "At the Cancer Clinic"; "A Rainy Morning"
"The China Painters"; "Pearl"

Lowell, Robert
"Colloquy in Black Rock"; "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket"
"Skunk Hour"; "Night Sweat"; "For the Union Dead"

Randall, Dudley
"The Melting Pot"

Robinson, Edwin A.
"Richard Cory"; "Miniver Cheevy"; "Mr. Flood's Party"

Roethke, Theodore
"Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartze"
“My Papa’s Waltz”; “The Lost Son”
“The Waking”; “I Knew a Woman”
“The Far Field”; “Wish for a Young Wife”
“In a Dark Time”; “The North American Sequence”
“Cuttings”

Stevens, Wallace
“Sunday Morning”

Tohe, Laura
“Our Tongues Slapped into Silence”

Welch, James
“Harlem, Montana: Just Off the Reservation”

Wheatley, Phyllis
“On Being Brought from Africa to America”

Whitman, Walt
“Song of Myself”
“Out of the Cradle, Endlessly Rocking”
“When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”

Williams, William C.
“Spring and All”; “The Red Wheelbarrow”
“This is Just to Say”

Zepeda, Ofelia
“Riding the Earth”

**Short Fiction**
Alexie, Sherman
Baiwin, James
Bonnin, Gertrude
Carver, Raymond
Chesnutt, Charles
Cisneros, Sandra
Crane, Stephen
Davis, Rebecca H.
Ellison, Ralph
Faulkner, William
Freeman, Mary W.
Hemingway, Ernest
Irving, Washington
James, Henry
Johnson, Pauline
Melville, Herman
O’Connor, Flannery
Oskison, John
Poe, Edgar Allan
Twain, Mark
Updike, John
Welty, Eudora

“Every Little Hurricane”
“Sonny’s Blues”
“Soft-Hearted Sioux” (available online etext)
“Cathedral”
“The Goophered Grapevine”
“Barbi-Q”; “Woman Hollering Creek”
“The Open Boat”
“Life in the Iron Mills”
from *Invisible Man*: “Prologue”; “Battle Royal”
“The Bear”
“A New England Nun”
“Big Two-Hearted River”
“Rip Van Winkle”
“Daisy Miller”
“A Red Girl’s Reasoning” (available online etext)
“Bartleby, the Scrivener”
“Good Country People”
“The Problem of Old Harjo”
“Fall of the House of Usher”
“The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”
“A & P”
“Petrified Man”