

MA American Literature Comps Reading List— The Core

Drama

Miller, Arthur	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
O'Neill, Eugene	<i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>
Williams, Tennessee	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>

Non-Fiction

Adams, Henry	"The Virgin and the Dynamo"
Baldwin, James	"Notes of a Native Son"
Bradford, William	<i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> (as excerpted in <i>Norton Anth. of Lit</i> , vol. 1, 5 th ed, 1998)
Edwards, Jonathan	"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
Eiseley, Loren	"The Bird and the Machine"
Emerson, Ralph W.	"Nature"
Franklin, Benjamin	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>
Douglass, Frederick	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
Hughes, Langston	"The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain"
King, Martin Luther, Jr.	"I Have a Dream"
LaFlesche, Francis	<i>The Middle Five</i>
Leopold, Aldo	"Thinking Like a Mountain"
Momoday, N. Scott	<i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>
Rowlandson, Mary	<i>Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration</i>
Thoreau, Henry David	<i>Walden</i>
Williams, Terry T.	"Clan of the One Breasted Women"

Novels

Cather, Willa	<i>O Pioneers</i>
Erdrich, Louise	<i>Love Medicine</i>
Hawthorne, Nathaniel	<i>A Scarlet Letter</i>
Jewett, Sarah Orne	<i>Country of the Pointed Firs</i>
Silko, Leslie Marmon	<i>Ceremony</i>
Steinbeck, John	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>

Poetry

Alexie, Sherman	"On the Amtrak from Boston to New York City" "Crazy Horse Speaks"; "Evolution"
Bradstreet, Ann	"The Flesh and the Spirit"; "To My Dear and Loving Husband" "Upon the Burning of our House"; "To My Dear Children"
Brooks, Gwendolyn	"Kitchenette Building"; "The Mother" "We Real Cool"; "Sadie and Maud"
Cullen, Countee	"Heritage"
Cummings, E. E.	"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 Turth 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 Llorona”
- 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	"Every Little Hurricane"
Balwin, James	"Sonny's Blues"
Bonnin, Gertrude	"Soft-Hearted Sioux" (available online etext)
Carver, Raymond	"Cathedral"
Chesnutt, Charles	"The Goophered Grapevine"
Cisneros, Sandra	"Barbi-Q"; "Woman Hollering Creek"
Crane, Stephen	"The Open Boat"
Davis, Rebecca H.	"Life in the Iron Mills"
Ellison, Ralph	from <i>Invisible Man</i> : "Prologue"; "Battle Royal"
Faulkner, William	"The Bear"
Freeman, Mary W.	"A New England Nun"
Hemingway, Ernest	"Big Two-Hearted River"
Irving, Washington	"Rip Van Winkle"
James, Henry	"Daisy Miller"
Johnson, Pauline	"A Red Girl's Reasoning" (available online etext)
Melville, Herman	"Bartleby, the Scrivener"
O'Connor, Flannery	"Good Country People"
Oskison, John	"The Problem of Old Harjo"
Poe, Edgar Allan	"Fall of the House of Usher"
Twain, Mark	"The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"
Updike, John	"A & P"
Welty, Eudora	"Petriified Man"