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
Franklin, Benjamin
Douglas, Frederick
Hughes, Langston
King, Martin Luther, Jr.
LaFlesche, Francis
Leopold, Aldo
Momaday, N. Scott
Rowlandson, Mary
Thoreau, Henry David
Williams, Terry T.

"The Virgin and the Dynamo"
"Notes of a Native Son"
"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 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 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 Schwartz”
"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"
"Sonny's Blues"

Baiwin, James
"Soft-Hearted Sioux" (available online etext)
"Cathedral"

Bonnin, Gertrude
"The Goophered Grapevine"

Carver, Raymond
"Barbi-Q"; "Woman Hollering Creek"

Chesnutt, Charles
"The Open Boat"

Cisneros, Sandra
"Life in the Iron Mills"
from Invisible Man: "Prologue"; "Battle Royal"

Crane, Stephen
"The Bear"
"A New England Nun"
"Big Two-Hearted River"
"Rip Van Winkle"

Davis, Rebecca H.
"Daisy Miller"

Ellison, Ralph
"A Red Girl's Reasoning" (available online etext)
"Bartleby, the Scrivener"

Carver, Raymond
"The Problem of Old Harjo"

Freeman, Mary W.
"Fall of the House of Usher"

Hemingway, Ernest
"The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"

Irving, Washington
"A & P"

James, Henry
"Petrified Man"

Johnson, Pauline

Melville, Herman

O'Connor, Flannery

Oskison, John

Poe, Edgar Allan

Twain, Mark

Updike, John

Welty, Eudora
American Literature Comprehensive Special Focus—

Applied Literary Theory: Keirian Temperament and Conflict in Literary Characters

Books:

Articles: (These articles are optional, but they are practical and should be helpful.)
McKenna, John J. “Teaching Conflict in Short Fiction.” Eureka Studies in Teaching Short Fiction 1.1 (Fall 2000): 5-12.

Web Site: (Optional, but helpful.)
www.keirsey.com

Compiled by J. J. McKenna
9/15/07
American Literature Comprehensive Examination

Special Focus: American Women Short Fiction Writers of the Later 20th Century

Bambara, Toni Cade. Gorilla, My Love. 1972
Kingston, Maxine Hong. The Woman Warrior. 1976
Silko, Leslie Marmom. Ceremony. 1977
Mason, Bobbie Ann. Shiloh and Other Stories. 1982
Kincaid, Jamaica. At the Bottom of the River. 1983
Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club. 1989
Cisneros, Sandra. Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories. 1991
Erdrich, Louise. Love Medicine. 1993

Compiled by J. J. McKenna
9/15/07
MA Compressive Exam – Supplemental Reading List for Native American Literature
Compiled December 2007
Barbara K. Robins
David Peterson

Drama:
“Body Indian” by Hanay Geigamah
“Indian Radio Days” by LeAnne Howe and Roxy Gordon
“Study of Susanna” by William Yellow Robe
(The above works are included in Seventh Generation: Anthology of Native American Plays.)

Non-Fiction Prose:
Deloria, Vine Jr. “Custer Died for Your Sins”
Silko, Leslie M. Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit

Novels:
Deloria, Ella Cara. Waterlily
Howe, LeAnne. Shell Shaker.
McNickle, D'Arcy. The Surrounded
Welch, James. Winter in the Blood or The Heartsong of Charging Elk

Poetry:
Belin, Ester. (Selections from From the Belly of My Beauty.) “Euro-American Womanhood
Ceremony,” “Ruby’s Summer Fruit,” “Ruby’s Answer”
Hobson, Geary. “Deer Hunting”
Miranda, Deborah A. (Selections from Indian Cartography) “Looking for a Cure,” “Indian
Cartography”
Momaday, N. Scott. “The Bear,” The Delight Song of Tsoai-Talee”
Ortiz, Simon. “Dry Root in a Wash,” “A New Story”
Revard, Carter. “An Eagle Nation”
Tapahonso, Luci. “Hills Brother Coffee,” “They are Silent and Quick”

Short Stories:
Alexie, Sherman. Selections from Ten Little Indians
Silko, Leslie M. “Storyteller”

Criticism:
Womack, Craig. Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism.
American Comprehensive Exam
Special Focus: Beyond Walden Pond—Twentieth Century Nature Poetry

Oliver, Mary. *New and Selected Poems*. PS3565. L5 N 47

Composed by J. J. McKenna
9/15/07
SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST OF WORKS FOR M.A. EXAM IN “AMERICAN LITERARY REALISM AND NATURALISM, 1860-1920”

Novels

Kate Chopin, The Awakening
Stephen Crane, Maggie, A Girl of the Streets
Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth

Short Stories

Paul Laurence Dunbar, “The Lynching of Jube Benson”
Charles Chesnutt, “The Wife of His Youth”
Hamlin Garland, “Up the Coolly”
Maria Christina Mena, “The Vine Leaf”
Mark Twain, “The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg”
Kate Chopin, “Desirée’s Baby”
Willa Cather, “A Wagner Matinée”
Bret Harte, “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Sui Sin Far, “Its Wavering Image”

Drama

Israel Zangwill, The Melting Pot
Susan Glaspell, Trifles

Memoirs, Essays

Zitkala-Ša, “ Impressions of an Indian Childhood,” “School Days of an Indian Girl,” and “An Indian Teacher Among Indians”
Hamlin Garland, “Literary Centres”
Frank Norris, “A Plea for Romantic Fiction”
Henry James, “The Art of Fiction”
Mark Twain, “Cooper’s Literary Offences”
Sui Sin Far, “Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of an Eurasian”

Poetry

Stephen Crane, "God Lay Dead in Heaven," "A Man Said to the Universe," and "Do Not Weep, Maiden, For War Is Kind."
Paul Laurence Dunbar, “We Wear the Mask”
Edwin Arlington Robinson, “Richard Cory,” “Miniver Cheevy”