British Literature, Pre-Romantics to Contemporary II

(British Lit II, Revised 28 March 2008)
This list covers British, Irish, Commonwealth, and Anglophone literature from the Romantic period (about the middle of the Eighteenth Century) through contemporary literature. It is keyed to three of the most popular and respected modern anthologies of literature.

1780-1901: Romantic and Victorian Writers
Arnold, Matthew. “Dover Beach,” “The Buried Life,” “Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse,” and “The Scholar Gypsy”; excerpt from The Function of Criticism at the Present Time*
Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice
Baillie, Joanna. “Introductory Discourse” to the Plays on the Passions**
Barbauld, Anna Latetia. “Eighteen-Hundred and Eleven” **
Blake, William. Songs of Innocence and Experience; The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
Brönte, Emily. Wuthering Heights
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. From Aurora Leigh, excerpts “Book One” and “Book Two”*
Browning, Robert. “My Last Duchess,” “Love Among the Ruins,” “Two in the Campagna,” “Caliban upon Setebos,” “Rabbi Ben Ezra,” and “Fra Lippo Lippi” *
Byron, Lord (George Gordon). “Manfred,” excerpt from “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage,” excerpt from “Don Juan.” *
Carlyle, Thomas. Excerpt from Sartor Resartus *
Clare, John. “Clock a Clay,” “I Am,” “The Mores” **
Coleridge, Samuel. “Kubla Khan,” “The Time of the Ancient Mariner,” “The Eolian Harp,” “Frost at Midnight,” “Christabel”; excerpt from Biographia Literaria*
Dickens, Charles. Great Expectations
Eliot, George. Middlemarch
Equiano, Olaudah. Excerpt from The Interesting Narrative of the Life **
Fitzgerald, Edward. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam
Hardy, Thomas. Jude the Obscure
Hemens, Felicia. “Casabianca” *
Keats, John. “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “To Autumn,” “To a Nightingale,” “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer,” “La Belle Dame Sans Merci,” and “Lamia” *
Radcliffe, Ann. The Italian
Rossetti, Christina. “Goblin Markket” *
Scott, Sir Walter. Waverley
Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus *
Shelley, P.B. “Ozymandias,” “Mont Blanc,” “England in 1819,” “Adonais,” “Alastor” *
Smith, Charlotte. Excerpt from “Beachy Head” **
Wilde, Oscar. The Importance of Being Earnest *
Wollstonecraft, Mary. Excerpt from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman **
Wordsworth, Dorothy. Excerpt from The Grasmere Journal**

1901–Present: Edwardian to Contemporary Writers (British Lit II)
Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart
Amis, Kingsley. Lucky Jim
Beckett, Samuel. Waiting for Godot
Breeze, Jean. “Binta,” “Riddyn Ravings (The Mad Woman's Poem),” “Cherry Tree Garden” ***
Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness
Duffy, Carol Ann. “Standing Female Nude,” “And How Are We Today?,” “Psychopath,” “Translating the English, 1989,” “Poet for Our Times” ***
Golding, William. Lord of the Flies
Hardy, Thomas. “The Darkling Thrush,” “Channel Firing” *
Hughes, Ted. “View of a Pig,” “Pike,” “Out,” “Pibroch,” “Wodwo,” “Crow Hears Fate Knock on the Door,” “Flounder” ***
Joyce, James. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
Kinsella, Thomas. “Baggot Street Deserta,” “Ritual of Departure” ***
Lawrence, D.H. Women in Love
Lessing, Doris. The Golden Notebook
Mansfield, Katherine.
Monk, Geraldine. “La Quinta del Sordo,” “Where?” ***
Murdoch, Iris. Under the Net
O’Casey, Sean. Juno and the Paycock
O’Sullivan, Maggie. “Starlings,” Garb,” “Hill Figures” ***
Pinter Harold. The Caretaker
Ray, Jackie. From “The Adoption Papers, Chapter 7: Black Bottom” ***
Riley, Denise. “Affections Must Not,” “Lure, 1963,” “When it’s Time to Go,” “Pastoral” ***
Rushdie, Salman. Midnight’s Children
Shaw, George Bernard. Major Barbara
Silken, Jon. “Death of a Son,” “First it was Singing,” “Dandelion,” “A Daisy,” “A Word About Freedom and Identity in Tel-Aviv” ***
Stoppard, Tom. Arcadia; Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
Thomas, Dylan. “The Force That Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower,” “Fern Hill,” and “Do Not Go Gently Into That Good Night” *
Woolf, Virginia. To the Lighthouse; excerpt from A Room of One’s Own *

Some selections are found in these readily available anthologies of British Literature; the number of asterisks indicates the preferred excerpt or selections:

*Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 2 (7th Ed.)
**Longman Anthology of English Literature, Volume 2 (2nd Ed.)
***Anthology of Twentieth-Century British and Irish Poetry (Oxford, 2001)

Novels and plays are available in a number of editions and can be found in the UNO Library. Poems, as well, can be found in collected in editions and era-specific anthologies in the UNO Library.