Groupings of Literature by Topic and Theme

AGING

Stories
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”

Poems
Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Bean Eaters”
T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
Robert Frost, “After Apple-Picking”
Robert Frost, “Birches”
Tony Hoagland, “A History of Desire”
A. E. Housman, “Loveliest of trees, the cherry now”
John Milton, “When I consider how my light is spent”
William Shakespeare, “That time of year thou mayst in me behold”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses”
Dylan Thomas, “Fern Hill”
Jean Toomer, “Face”

Plays
August Wilson, Fences

ART

Stories
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”

Poems
W. H. Auden, “Musée des Beaux Arts”
Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”
Robert Hass, “A Story About the Body”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Larry Levis, “The Poem You Asked For”
Marianne Moore, “Poetry”
Alexander Pope, “from An Essay on Criticism, Part 2”
William Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”
Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ozymandias”
Percy Bysshe Shelley, “To a Skylark”
Wallace Stevens, “Anecdote of the Jar”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott”
William Carlos Williams, “The Red Wheelbarrow”
William Butler Yeats, “Sailing to Byzantium”
Paul Zimmer, “The Poets’ Strike”

**ANIMALS**

**Stories**
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”

**Poems**
Wendell Berry, “The Peace of Wild Things”
Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish”
William Blake, “The Lamb”
William Blake, “The Tyger”
Billy Collins, “I Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Art Blakey’s Version of ‘Three Blind Mice’”
Joy Harjo, “She Had Some Horses”
Robert Hass, “A Story About the Body”
Linda Hogan, “Crow Law”
Richard Jones, “Cathedral”
Galway Kinnell, “The Bear”
Ted Kooser, “Student”
Maxine Kumin, “The Sound of Night”
Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”
Lorine Niedecker, “My Life by Water”
Mary Ruefle, “Barbarians”
Percy Bysshe Shelley, “To a Skylark”
Gary Snyder, “Hitch Haiku”
William Stafford, “Traveling through the Dark”
Gerald Stern, “The Dog”
Walt Whitman, “A noiseless patient spider”
Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*
James Wright, “A Blessing”

**CHOICES (AND LACK OF)**

**Stories**
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, “Bird Song”
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”
T.C. Boyle, “Balto”
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”
Edgar Allan Poe, “A Cask of Amontillado”
John Updike, “A & P”

Poems
Agha Shahid Ali, “I Dream It Is Afternoon When I Return to Delhi”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Robert Francis, The Base Stealer
Robert Frost, “Out, Out—”
Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken”
Galway Kinnell, “The Bear”
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died”
Sharon Olds, “I Go Back to May 1937”
Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
William Stafford, “Traveling through the Dark”
Gerald Stern, “The Dog”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses”
Richard Wilbur, “Love Calls Us to the Things of This World”
Lady Mary Wroth, “Am I Thus Conquered?”

Plays
Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun
Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House
William Shakespeare, Othello
Tennessee Williams, The Glass Menagerie

CITY LIFE/RURAL LIFE

Stories
James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “Handsomest Drowned Man in the World”
Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”

Poems
Jim Barnes, “Return to La Plata, Missouri”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Bean Eaters”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Lorna Dee Cervantes, “Freeway 280”
T. S. Eliot, “Preludes”
Robert Frost, “Acquainted with the Night”
Robert Frost, “Out, Out—”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Garrett Kaoru Hongo, “Yellow Light”
Langston Hughes, “Harlem”
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died”
Lorine Niedecker, “My Life by Water”
Gary Snyder, “Hitch Haiku”
William Stafford, “Traveling through the Dark”
Sekou Sundiata, “Blink Your Eyes”
Jonathan Swift, “A Description of the Morning”
James Tate, “The Wheelchair Butterfly”
James Wright, “A Blessing”
William Butler Yeats, “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”

Plays
Susan Glaspell, Trifles

COMING OF AGE

Stories
T.C. Boyle, “Balto”
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”
Sandra Cisneros, “The House on Mango Street”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
James Joyce, “Araby”
Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”
D. H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”
John Updike, “A & P”

Poems
Elizabeth Bishop, “In the Waiting Room”
Rita Dove, “Fifth Grade Autobiography”
Robert Frost, “Out, Out—”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Spring and Fall”
Ted Kooser, “Student”
Li-Young Lee, “Eating Alone”
Theodore Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz”
Dylan Thomas, “Fern Hill”

CONFORMITY AND REBELLION

Stories
James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
Ralph Ellison, “Battle Royal”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
Ha Jin, “Saboteur”
Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
John Updike, “A & P”

Poems
Margaret Atwood, “True Stories”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Emily Dickinson, “Much Madness is divinest Sense”
Emily Dickinson, “Wild Nights—Wild Nights!”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Joy Harjo, “She Had Some Horses”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Etheridge Knight, “Hard Rock Returns to Prison from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane”
Heather McHugh, “What He Thought”
Claude McKay, “America”
Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
Mark Strand, “Eating Poetry”

Plays
Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House

FAMILY
**Stories**

James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”
T.C. Boyle, “Balto”
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”
Sandra Cisneros, “The House on Mango Street”
Junot Díaz, “Drown”
Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
James Joyce, “Araby”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”
D. H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”
John Updike, “A & P”
Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”

**Poems**

Anonymous, “Lord Randal”
Jimmy Santiago Baca, “Family Ties”
Eavan Boland, “The Pomegranate”
Judith Ortiz Cofer, “Cold as Heaven”
Toi Derricotte, “A Note on My Son’s Face”
Rita Dove, “Fifth Grade Autobiography”
Cornelius Eady, “My Mother, If She Had Won Free Dance Lessons”
Robert Frost, “Out, Out—”
Kimiko Hahn, “Mother’s Mother”
Michael S. Harper, “Nightmare Begins Responsibility”
Robert Hayden, “Those Winter Sundays”
Seamus Heaney, “Mid-Term Break”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Langston Hughes, “Mother to Son”
Li-Young Lee, “Eating Alone”
Li-Young Lee, “Visions and Interpretations”
Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
Sharon Olds, “I Go Back to May 1937”
Simon J. Ortiz, “Speaking”
Sylvia Plath, “Daddy”
Sylvia Plath, “Metaphors”
Sylvia Plath, “Morning Song”
Alberto Ríos, “Nani”
Theodore Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz”
Cathy Song, “Heaven”
Gary Soto, “Moving Away”
Virgil Suárez, “Tea Leaves, Caracoles, Coffee Beans”
Dylan Thomas, “Do not go gentle into that good night”
Natasha Trethewey, “History Lesson”
Nancy Willard, “Questions My Son Asked Me, Answers I Never Gave Him”

**Plays**
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*
August Wilson, *Fences*

**HISTORY**

**Stories**
Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried”

**Poems**
Sherman Alexie, “Postcards to Columbus”
Margaret Atwood, “True Stories”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
Thomas Hardy, “The Convergence of the Twain”
Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, “Unidentified Female Student, Former Slave”
Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
Natasha Trethewey, “History Lesson”
William Butler Yeats, “Leda and the Swan”
William Butler Yeats, “The Second Coming”
Ray A. Young Bear, “From the Spotted Night”

**HUMOR**

**Stories**
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”
John Updike, “A & P”

**Poems**
Victor Hernández Cruz, “Problems with Hurricanes”
Richard Garcia, “Why I Left the Church”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”  
Anne Sexton, “Cinderella”  
Mark Strand, “Eating Poetry”  
James Tate, “The Wheelchair Butterfly”  
Nancy Willard, “Questions My Son Asked Me, Answers I Never Gave Him”  
William Carlos Williams, “This Is Just to Say”  

**Plays**  
David Ives, *The Sure Thing*  
Lynn Nottage, *POOF!*  

**ILLNESS AND DEATH**  

**Stories**  
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”  
Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”  
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”  
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”  
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”  
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”  
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”  
Ha Jin, “Saboteur”  
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”  
D. H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”  
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”  
Gabriel García Márquez, “Handsomest Drowned Man in the World”  
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”  
Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried”  
Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”  
Edgar Allan Poe, “A Cask of Amontillado”  
Leslie Marmon Silko, “The Man to Send Rain Clouds”  
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”  
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”  

**Poems**  
Anonymous, “Lord Randal”  
Julia Alvarez, “How I Learned to Sweep”  
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”  
Judith Ortiz Cofer, “Cold as Heaven”  
Victor Hernández Cruz, “Problems with Hurricanes”  
Emily Dickinson, “Because I could not stop for Death”  
Emily Dickinson, “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died”  
John Donne, “Death, be not proud”  
Rita Dove, “Fifth Grade Autobiography”  
Robert Frost, “Out, Out—”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
Michael S. Harper, “Nightmare Begins Responsibility”
Robert Hass, “A Story About the Body”
Seamus Heaney, “Mid-Term Break”
A. E. Houseman, “To an Athlete Dying Young”
Randall Jarrell, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”
Li-Young Lee, “Visions and Interpretations”
Denise Levertov, “Talking to Grief”
Ben Jonson, “On My First Son”
John Keats, “When I have fears that I may cease to be”
Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died”
Robert Pinsky, “Shirt”
Edgar Allan Poe, “Annabel Lee”
John Crowe Ransom, “Bells for John Whiteside’s Daughter”
Edwin Arlington Robinson, “Richard Cory”
Gerald Stern, “The Dog”
Wallace Stevens, “Emperor of Ice Cream”
Virgil Suárez, “Tea Leaves, Caracoles, Coffee Beans”
Dylan Thomas, “Do not go gentle into that good night”
Charles Wright, “March Journal”

Plays
William Shakespeare, Othello
Sophocles, Oedipus Rex
August Wilson, Fences

LANGUAGE AND WORDS

Stories
Junot Díaz, “Drown”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”

Poems
Margaret Atwood, “True Stories”
Marilyn Chin, “How I Got That Name”
Emily Dickinson, “I like to see it lap the Miles”
Marilyn Hacker, “Villanelle”
Kimiko Hahn, “Mother’s Mother”
Terrance Hayes, “Talk”
Garrett Kaoru Hongo, “Yellow Light”
Allison Joseph, “On Being Told I Don’t Speak Like a Black Person”
Audrey Lorde, “Coal”
Sharon Olds, “I Go Back to May 1937”
Alberto Ríos, “Nani”
Mark Strand, “Eating Poetry”
Quincy Troupe, “A Poem for ‘Magic’”

**Plays**
Lynn Nottage, *POOF!*

**LONELINESS**

**Stories**
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Junot Díaz, “Drown”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
James Joyce, “Araby”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”

**Poems**
Jim Barnes, “Return to La Plata, Missouri”
Elizabeth Bishop, “One Art”
T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
T. S. Eliot, “Preludes”
Allen Ginsberg, “A Supermarket in California”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Etheridge Knight, “Hard Rock Returns to Prison from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane”
Li-Young Lee, “Eating Alone”
Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott”
William Wordsworth, “I wandered lonely as a cloud”

**Plays**
Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*

**LOVE (AND HATE)**

**Stories**
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, “Bird Song”
Sherman Alexie, “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven”
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
Junot Diaz, “Drown”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
James Joyce, “Araby”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”
Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”
John Updike, “A & P”

Poems
Elizabeth Bishop, “One Art”
Anne Bradstreet, “To My Dear and Loving Husband”
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways”
Robert Burns, “A Red, Red Rose”
George Gordon, Lord Byron, “She walks in beauty”
Emily Dickinson, “Wild Nights—Wild Nights!”
John Donne, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”
Robert Duncan, “The Torso”
Cornelius Eady, “My Mother, If She Had Won Free Dance Lessons”
Anita Endrezze, “The Girl Who Loved the Sky”
Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Jane Hirshfield, “To Drink”
A. Van Jordan, “From”
John Keats, “La Belle Dame sans Merci”
Philip Levine, “What Work Is”
Audre Lorde, “Coal”
Richard Lovelace, “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars”
Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”
John Frederick Nims, “Love Poem”
Linda Pastan, “love poem”
Edgar Allan Poe, “Annabel Lee”
Theodore Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz”
William Shakespeare, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds”
William Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”
William Shakespeare, “That time of year thou mayst in me behold”
Edmund Spenser, “what guile is this, that those her golden tresses”
Richard Wilbur, “Love Calls Us to the Things of This World”
William Carlos Williams, “This Is Just to Say”
Lady Mary Wroth, “Am I Thus Conquered?”
Sir Thomas Wyatt, “They flee from me”

Plays
David Ives, The Sure Thing
William Shakespeare, Othello

MARRIAGE
Stories
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, “Bird Song”
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
T.C. Boyle, “Balto”
Raymond Carver, “Cathedral”
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat”
Ha Jin, “Saboteur”
Jhumpa Lahiri, “Interpreter of Maladies”
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “Handsomest Drowned Man in the World”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”

Poems
Ai, “Why Can’t I Leave You?”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Bean Eaters”
Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”
Michael S. Harper, “Nightmare Begins Responsibility”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Sharon Olds, “I Go Back to May 1937”
Linda Pastan, “love poem”
Adrienne Rich, “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers”
William Shakespeare, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds”

Plays
Susan Glaspell, Trifles
Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House
Lynn Nottage, POOF!
William Shakespeare, Othello
Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

MUSIC

Stories
James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”

Poems
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Khan”
T. S. Eliot, “Preludes”
Conrad Hilberry, “Player Piano”
Maxine Kumin, “The Sound of Night”
Frank O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died”
Percy Bysshe Shelley, “To a Skylark”
Walt Whitman, from *Song of Myself*
Al Young, “A Dance for Ma Rainey”

**NATURE**

**Stories**
Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”

**Poems**
Wendell Berry, “The Peace of Wild Things”
Judith Ortiz Cofer, “Cold as Heaven”
Victor Hernández Cruz, “Problems with Hurricanes”
E. E. Cummings, “in Just-”
Emily Dickinson, “It sifts from Leaden Sieves”
Anita Endrezze, “The Girl Who Loved the Sky”
Robert Frost, “After Apple-Picking”
Robert Frost, “Birches”
Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken”
Robert Frost, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Pied Beauty”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Spring and Fall”
A. E. Housman, “Loveliest of trees, the cherry now”
John Keats, “To Autumn”
Galway Kinnell, “The Bear”
Maxine Kumin, “The Sound of Night”
Stanley Kunitz, “The War Against the Trees”
Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”
Lorine Niedecker, “My Life by Water”
Mary Oliver, “First Snow”
Gary Snyder, “Hitch Haiku”
William Stafford, “Traveling through the Dark”
Dylan Thomas, “Fern Hill”
Walt Whitman, from *Song of Myself*
Walt Whitman, “A Noiseless Patient Spider”
William Carlos Williams, “Spring and All”
William Wordsworth, “I wandered lonely as a cloud”
William Wordsworth, “It is a Beauteous Evening”
Charles Wright, “March Journal”
James Wright, “A Blessing”  
William Butler Yeats, “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”

POVERTY AND WEALTH

Stories
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, “Bird Song”  
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”  
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”  
Sandra Cisneros, “The House on Mango Street”  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”  
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”  
James Joyce, “Araby”  
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”  
D. H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”  
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”  
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”  
Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”  
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”

Poems
Jim Barnes, “Return to La Plata, Missouri”  
Gwendolyn Brooks, “The Bean Eaters”  
Lucille Clifton, “at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989”  
Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”  
Edwin Arlington Robinson, “Richard Cory”  
James Welch, “Christmas Comes to Moccasin Flat”

Plays
Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun  
Tennessee Williams, The Glass Menagerie  
August Wilson, Fences

RACE AND RACE RELATIONS

Stories
Sherman Alexie, “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven”  
James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues”  
Toni Cade Bambara, “The Lesson”  
Sandra Cisneros, “The House on Mango Street”  
Junot Díaz, “Drown”  
Ralph Ellison, “Battle Royal”  
Leslie Marmon Silko, “The Man to Send Rain Clouds”  
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”  
Alice Walker, “Everyday Use”
Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path”

Poems

Sherman Alexie, “Postcards to Columbus”
Jimmy Santiago Baca, “Family Ties”
Jim Barnes, “Return to La Plata, Missouri”
Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
Marilyn Chin, “How I Got That Name”
Lucille Clifton, “at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989”
Countee Cullen, “Incident”
Toi Derricotte, “A Note on My Son’s Face”
Paul Laurence Dunbar, “We Wear the Mask”
Cornelius Eady, “My Mother, If She Had Won Free Dance Lessons”
Ray González, “Praise the Tortilla, Praise Menudo, Praise Chorizo”
Michael S. Harper, “Nightmare Begins Responsibility”
Terrance Hayes, “Talk”
Garrett Kaoru Hongo, “Yellow Light”
Langston Hughes, “Harlem”
Honoree Fanonne Jeffers, “Unidentified Female Student, Former Slave”
Allison Joseph, “On Being Told I Don’t Speak Like a Black Person”
Etheridge Knight, “Hard Rock Returns to Prison from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane”
Audre Lorde, “Coal”
Claude McKay, “America”
Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
Marilyn Nelson, “Minor Miracle”
Dudley Randall, “Ballad of Birmingham”
Cathy Song, “Heaven”
Sekou Sundiata, “Blink Your Eyes”
Natasha Trethewey, “History Lesson”
Al Young, “A Dance for Ma Rainey”
Ray A. Young Bear, “From the Spotted Night”

Plays

Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun
William Shakespeare, Othello
August Wilson, Fences

RELIGION

Stories

Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”
James Joyce, “Araby”
Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”
Leslie Marmon Silko, “The Man to Send Rain Clouds”
Poems

Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach”
William Blake, “The Lamb”
William Blake, “The Tyger”
John Donne, “Death, be not proud”
Richard Garcia, “Why I Left the Church”
George Herbert, “The Collar”
George Herbert, “Easter-wnings”
Linda Hogan, “Crow Law”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Pied Beauty”
Richard Jones, “Cathedral”
Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”
John Milton, “When I consider how my light is spent”
Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
Mary Oliver, “First Snow”
Leslie Marmon Silko, “Prayer to the Pacific”
Charles Simic, “Begotten of the Spleen”
Virgil Suárez, “Tea Leaves, Caracoles, Coffee Beans”
Walt Whitman, from Song of Myself
Charles Wright, “March Journal”
James Wright, “A Blessing”

TIME

Stories
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”

Poems
W. H. Auden, “As I Walked Out One Evening”
T. S. Eliot, “Preludes”
Robert Frost, “Acquainted with the Night”
Thomas Hardy, “The Convergence of the Twain”
Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time”
Tony Hoagland, “A History of Desire”
Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”
William Shakespeare, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds”
William Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”

Plays
David Ives, The Sure Thing
Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*

**VIOLENCE**

**Stories**
- Ralph Ellison, “Battle Royal”
- Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat”
- Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
- Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
- Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried”
- Edgar Allan Poe, “A Cask of Amontillado”

**Poems**
- Margaret Atwood, “True Stories”
- Ai, “Why Can’t I Leave You?”
- Gwendolyn Brooks, “We Real Cool”
- Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”
- Mark Doty, “Tiara”
- Carolyn Forché, “The Colonel”
- Joy Harjo, “She Had Some Horses”
- Bob Hicok, “In the Loop”
- Randall Jarrell, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”
- Allison Joseph, “On Being Told I Don’t Speak Like a Black Person”
- Etheridge Knight, “Hard Rock Returns to Prison from the Hospital for the Criminal Insane”
- Yusef Komunyakaa, “Facing It”
- Heather McHugh, “What He Thought”
- Thylias Moss, “The Lynching”
- Lynn Nottage, *POOF!*
- Sharon Olds, “I Go Back to May 1937”
- Sylvia Plath, “Daddy”
- Dudley Randall, “Ballad of Birmingham”
- Ray A. Young Bear, “From the Spotted Night”

**Plays**
- Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
- William Shakespeare, *Othello*
- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

**WAR AND CONFLICT**

**Stories**
- Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried”

**Poems**
- Sherman Alexie, “Postcards to Columbus”
William Blake, “A Poison Tree”
E. E. Cummings, “next to of course god america i”
Carolyn Forché, “The Colonel”
Samuel Hazo, “For Fawzi in Jerusalem”
Garrett Kaoru Hongo, “Yellow Light”
Randall Jarrell, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”
Yusef Komunyakaa, “Facing It”
Richard Lovelace, “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars”
Naomi Shihab Nye, “The Small Vases from Hebron”
Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est”
James Welch, “Christmas Comes to Moccasin Flat”
Ray A. Young Bear, “From the Spotted Night”

WOMEN’S ISSUES

Stories
Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, “Bird Song”
Julia Alvarez, “How I Learned to Sweep”
Margaret Atwood, “Happy Endings”
Anton Chekhov, “The Lady and the Little Dog”
Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour”
William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily”
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”
Ernest Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants”
Zora Neale Hurston, “Sweat”
Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”

Poems
Margaret Atwood, “True Stories”
Elizabeth Bishop, “In the Waiting Room”
Olga Broumas, “Cinderella”
Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”
Lucille Clifton, “at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989”
Kimiko Hahn, “Mother’s Mother”
Robert Hass, “A Story About the Body”
Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, “Unidentified Female Student, Former Slave”
Jane Kenyon, “A Boy Goes Into the World”
Marge Piercy, “Barbie Doll”
Adrienne Rich, “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers”
Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott”

Plays
Susan Glaspell, Trifles
Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll House*
Lynn Nottage, *POOF!*

**WORK**

**Stories**
Sherman Alexie, “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven”
Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case”
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Winter Dreams”
Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
D. H. Lawrence, “The Rocking-Horse Winner”
Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”
Herman Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivener”
Tillie Olsen, “I Stand Here Ironing”
Amy Tan, “Two Kinds”
John Updike, “A & P”

**Poems**
Lucille Clifton, “at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989”
Robert Frost, “Out, Out —”
Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Pied Beauty”
Philip Levine, “What Work Is”
Gary Snyder, “Hitch Haiku”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses”