

MA Reading Lists
Department of English and Comparative Literature
San Diego State University

(Lists last revised Spring 2008)

Students interested in critical editions of the works below may wish to consult available titles in such highly regarded series as the Norton critical editions series, the Bedford/St. Martin's Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism series, and the Broadview Literary Texts series.

I. American Literature Specialization

- Mary Rowlandson, "A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson"
- Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845 ed.)
- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, "On Civil Disobedience," and "Walking"
- Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*, "Benito Cereno," and "Bartleby the Scrivener"
- Emily Dickinson, select poems from *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition*, ed. R. W. Franklin
- Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
- Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*; William Carlos Williams, *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams* (vol. 1), ed. A. Walton Litz and Christopher MacGowan; and Langston Hughes, *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*
- Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
- Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*; and August Wilson, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
- Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*; Robert Lowell, *Life Studies*; Adrienne Rich, *The Fact of a Doorframe*; and Rita Dove, *Thomas and Beulah*
- Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

British Literature Selections

- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* and *Othello*
- Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
- Jane Austen, *Emma*
- James Joyce, *Dubliners*

Children's Literature Selection

- Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Comparative Literature Selections

- Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Robert Fagles)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (trans. Gregory Rabassa)

II. British Literature Specialization

- Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
- Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*
- John Donne, “Song: Go and Catch a Falling Star”; “Air and Angels”; “A Valediction: Of Weeping”; “Love’s Alchemy”; “The Flea”; “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”; “The Ecstasy”; “The Funeral”; “The Relic”; “Elegy 16. On His Mistress”; “Elegy 19. To His Mistress Going to Bed”; “Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward”; Holy Sonnets: #1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18
- Shakespeare, tragedies: *Hamlet*, *Othello*
- Shakespeare, other: *The Sonnets*, *As You Like It*, *Richard II*
- Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*
- Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*
- English Romantic Poets: A Selection
 - Blake:** *Songs of Innocence and Experience*; *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (Norton Selections: “The Argument”; “A Memorable Fancy”; “Proverbs of Hell”); *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*
 - Wordsworth:** “Preface” to *Lyrical Ballads* (2nd ed.); “The Thorn”; “We Are Seven”; “Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey”; *The Ruined Cottage*; *The Pedlar*; “Strange fits of passion I have known”; “Song: She dwelt among th’untrodden ways”; “A slumber did my spirit seal”; “Three years she grew in sun and shower”; “Resolution and Independence”; “The Solitary Reaper”; “Ode. Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood”; “My Heart Leaps Up”; “Daffodils: I wandered Lonely as a Cloud”; *The Prelude* 1805 edition (Books 1 and 2 [all]; Book 4: ll. 400-495; Book 6: ll. 452-572 [Simplon Pass]; Book 7: ll. 592-622; Book 9: ll. 294-534; Book 13: ll. 1-184)
 - Coleridge:** “The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere”; “Kubla Khan”; “Dejection: An Ode”; “Frost at Midnight”; “Fears in Solitude”; *Biographia Literaria* Chapters I, IV, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XXII
 - Lord Byron:** “She Walks in Beauty”; “Written after Swimming from Sestos to Abydos”; “Prometheus”; “Darkness”; “Stanzas to Augusta (Though the day of my destiny’s over)”; “So We’ll Go No More a-roving”; *Don Juan* [Norton Selections from Cantos I, II, III, IV]
 - Shelley:** “To Wordsworth”; “Mutability”; “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”; “Mont Blanc”; “Ozymandias”; “Ode to the West Wind”; “The Mask of Anarchy”; “England in 1819”; *A Defence of Poetry*; “The Cloud”; “To a Sky-Lark”; “Hymn of Pan”; “To Night”; “To --- [Music, when soft voices die]”; “To --- [When passion’s trance is overpast]”
 - Keats:** “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”; “Sleep and Poetry”; “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles for the First Time”; “The Eve of St. Agnes”; “La Belle Dame sans Merci”; “Fall of Hyperion”; “Ode to Psyche”; “Ode on a Grecian Urn”; “Ode to a Nightingale”; “Ode on Melancholy”; “To Autumn”
- Jane Austen, *Emma*
- George Eliot, *Mill on the Floss*
- Modernists: James Joyce, *Dubliners*; D. H. Lawrence, “Prussian Officer” and “Odour of Chrysanthemums”; Katherine Mansfield, “Daughters of the Late Colonel”; Virginia Woolf, “Kew Gardens” and “The Mark on the Wall”; E.M. Forster, “The Road from Colonus”
- Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*
- Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

American Literature Selections

- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* and “On Civil Disobedience” and “Walking”
- Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, selected poems
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Children’s Literature Selection

- Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

Comparative Literature Selections

- Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Robert Fagles)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (trans. Gregory Rabassa)

III. Children's Literature Specialization

While students specializing in children's literature may wish to buy separate and different editions of the texts listed below, the first five items are collected in Griffith and Frey's *Classics of Children's Literature* 5th edition (Prentice Hall).

- FAIRY TALES. Charles Perrault: The Sleeping Beauty in the Woods. Little Red Riding-hood. Blue Beard. Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper. Mme Le Prince de Beaumont: Beauty and the Beast. The Brother's Grimm: Snow-white. The Frog Prince. Hansel and Grethel. Aschenputtel. Rupunzel. The Sleeping Beauty. Hans Christian Andersen: The Snow Queen: A Tale in Seven Stories. The Little Mermaid. The Princess and the Pea. The Little Match Girl. The Swineherd. The Emperor's New Clothes. The Ugly Duckling. Joseph Jacobs: Jack and the Beanstalk. Molly Whuppie.
- Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- Kenneth Grahame: *The Wind in the Willows*
- L. Frank Baum: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*
- Joanna Spyri: *Heidi*
- PICTURE BOOKS: Beatrix Potter: *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*; Dr. Seuss: *The Cat in the Hat*; Maurice Sendak: *Where the Wild Things Are*
- E. B. White: *Charlotte's Web*
- Russell Hoban: *The Mouse and his Child*
- Banana Yoshimoto: *Kitchen*; and Francesca Lia Bloch: *Weetzie Bat*
- Mildred Taylor: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- Sandra Cisneros: *The House on Mango Street*
- J.K. Rowling: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

American Literature Selections

- Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, selected poems
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

British Literature Selections

- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* and *Othello*
- Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
- Jane Austen, *Emma*

Comparative Literature Selections

- Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Robert Fagles)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (trans. Gregory Rabassa)

IV. Comparative Literature Specialization

- Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Robert Fagles)
- Sophocles, *Oedipus* and *Antigone*
- Dante, *The Divine Comedy* (“Inferno”)
- Molière, *Tartuffe* and *The Misanthrope* (trans. Richard Wilbur)
- Voltaire, *Candide* (trans. Donald Frame)
- Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground* (trans. Andrew R. MacAndrew)
- Goethe, *Faust*, Part 1 (trans. Martin Greenberg)
- Franz Kafka, Selected short fiction, to include “The Metamorphosis,” “In the Penal Colony,” and “The Hunger Artist” (recommended edition *The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories*, trans. Joachim Neugroschel)
- Jun’ichirō Tanizaki, *The Key* and *Diary of a Mad Old Man* (trans. Howard Hibbett)
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Carlos Fuentes, *Aura* (trans. Lysander Kemp) and *The Crystal Frontier* (trans. Alfred MacAdam)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (trans. Gregory Rabassa)
- Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*
- Marguerite Duras, *The Lover* (trans. Barbara Bray)

American Literature Selections

- Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, selected poems
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