

Masters Reading List

retyped 2006

British Literature

Beginnings to 1500

- “Beowulf”
- “The Battle of Maldon”
- “Deor’s Lament”
- “The Wanderer”
- “The Seafarer”
- “Pearl”
- Piers Plowman
- “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
- Chaucer: Troilus and Criseyde; The Canterbury Tales
- Malory: Morte D’Arthur
- Henryson: Testament of Cresseid
- The Second Shepherd’s Play
- Cain and Abel
- Everyman
- Widsith
- The Dream of the Rood
- The Romance of the Rose

Sixteenth Century

Poetry:

- Skelton: “Philip Sparrow,” “Colin Clout.”
- Surrey: “Complaint of A Lover that Defied Love and Was By Love After the More Tormented”; “Description of a spring”; “Description and Praise of His Love Geraldine”; “Complaint of a Lover Rebuked.”
- Wyatt: “The Lover for Shamefastedness Hideth His Desire Within his Faithful Heart”; “The Lover Compareth his State to a Ship In a Perilous Storm Tossed On the Sea”; “To a Lady to Answer Directly with Yea or Nay”; “Of the Mean and Sure Estate.”
- Sackville: “Induction to The Mirror for Magistrates.”
- Sir John Davies: “Orchestra”; Nosce Teipsum.
- Spenser: “The Shepherdes Calendar” (April, June, October); Sonnets 1-10 in the Amoretti; “An Hymne in Honor of Love”; “Prothalamion”; Sonnets “Epithalamion”; “The Faerie Queene” (Books I and III).
- Sidney: Astrophil and Stella; Sonnets 1-10.
- Shakespeare: Sonnets 2, 28, 29, 55, 73, 116, 129, 130, 144, and 146.

- Drayton: Idea, Sonnets 1, 6, 61.
- Chapman: “The Shadow of the Night.”
- Marlowe: “Hero and Leander.”
- Marston: “The Scourge of Villainy,” Satyre 11.
- Hall: from “Virgidemiarum” Book 1, “the prologue,” “the postscript,” and “satire VII.”

Prose:

- More: Utopia.
- Elyot: The Book Named the Governor, Book 1, Chapter XIII.
- Lyly: Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit; read the preface to the “Gentleman Readers,” and the first five pages in any anthology for style.
- Nashe: The Unfortunate Traveler.
- Hooker: Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, the first ten pages of any standard anthology.

Prose Criticism:

- Sidney: The Defense of Poesy.
- Campion: Observation in the Art of English Poesy.
- Daniel: “A Defense of Rhyme.”

Drama:

- Sackville and Norton: Gorboduc.
- Lyly: Endymion.
- Kyd: The Spanish Tragedy.
- Marlowe: Tamburlaine part I; Dr. Faustus.
- Shakespeare: The Second Historical Tetralogy (Richard II-Henry IV); A Midsummer Night’s Dream; The Merchant of Venice; As You Like It; Twelfth Night; Measure for Measure; The Winter’s Tale; The Tempest; Julius Caesar; Hamlet; Othello; King Lear; Macbeth; Antony and Cleopatra.

Seventeenth Century

Poetry:

- Donne: Song (“Go and Catch a Falling Star”); “Woman’s Constancy”; “The Indifferent”; “The Canonization”; “Twickenham Garden”; “The Flea”; “The Ecstasy”; “The Relic”; Holy Sonnets 5, 7, 10; “Good Friday 1613, Riding Westward.”
- Jonson: “On My First Daughter”; “On My First Son”; “To John Donne”; “To Penshurst”; “Song (To Celia)”; “Come, My Celia.”

- Herrick: “Delight in Disorder”; “Corinna’s Going A-Maying”; “To Anthea, Who May Command Him Anything”; “Upon a Child That Died”; “The Night Piece”; “To Julia”; “Upon Julia’s Clothes”; “Upon Prue His Maid.”
- Herbert: “The Altar”; “Easter Wings”; “Easter”; “The Collar”; “The Pulley”; “Love” (3).
- Crashaw: “Music’s Duel”; “St. Mary Magdalene, or The Weeper”; “The Flaming Heart.”
- Marvell: “To His Coy Mistress”; “Upon Appleton House”; “To My Lord Fairfax”; “The Definition of Love”; “A Horatian Ode upon Cromwell’s Return from Ireland.”
- Suckling: “Out Upon It! I Have Loved...”; “Song (Why so pale and wan, fond Lover)”; “A Ballad Upon A Wedding.”
- Carew: “An Elegy Upon the Death of Dr. Donne, Dean of Paul’s”; “A Song (Ask Me No More Where Jove Bestows)”; “To A Lady that Desired I Would Love Her.”
- Vaughan: from Silex Scintillans: “Regeneration,” “The Retreat,” “Corruption,” “They Are All Gone Into a World of Light,” “Cock-Crowing.”
- Milton: “L’Allegro”; “Il Penseroso”; “Comus”; “Lycidas”; Paradise Lost; Samson Agonistes; Sonnet VII; Sonnet VIII.
- Phineas Fletcher: The Locusts or Apollyonists, Canto I.
- Giles Fletcher: Christ’s Triumph After Death, Canto IV.

Prose:

- Bacon: Essays (“Of Truth,” “Of Parents and Children,” “Of Love,” “Of Travel,” “Of Friendship,” “Of Studies”).
- Jonson: from “Timber, or Discoveries Made Upon Men and Matter”: “Censura de Poetis”; “De Shakespeare Nostrati”; “De Malignate Studentium”; “Poesis et Pictura”; “De Pictura”; “De Stilo et Optimo Scribendi Generi”; “Praecipendi Modi”; “What is a Poet?”
- Bible: A selection from the gospel of St. Matthew in at least two different translations.
- Burton: from the Anatomy of Melancholy: “Democritus Junior to the reader,” “The Utopia of Democritus Junior,” “Love of Learning, or Overmuch Study,” “How Love Tyrannized Over Men.”
- Browne: Religio Medici: read up to the statement “Nature hath made one world, and art another. In brief, all things artificial; for nature is the art of...”
- Milton: “Of Education”; Areopagitica.
- Bunyan: Pilgrim’s Progress.
- Pepys: Entry in his diary for 2 September 1665/1666 (The London Fire).
- Jeremy Taylor: The Rules and Exercise of Holy Dying, Chapter 1, sections 1 and 2.
- John Earle: from Microcosmography, or A Piece of the World Discovered In Essays and Characters: “A Plodding Student”; “A Young Gentleman of the University”; “A Plain Country Fellow.”

Drama:

- Jonson: Every Man in His Humor; Volpone; The Alchemist; Bartholomew Fair; Cynthia's Revels.
- Webster: The White Devil; The Duchess of Malfi.
- Beaumont and Fletcher: The Knight of the Burning Pestle; Philaster.
- Middleton and Rowley: The Changeling.

Restoration and Eighteenth Century

Poetry:

- Dryden: "Mac Flecknoe"; "Absalom and Achitophel"; "Religio Laici"; "To the Pious Memory of the Accomplisht Young Lady Mrs Anne Killigrew."; "St. Cecilia's Day"; "A Song for Alexander's Feast."
- Wilmot: "Satire Against Mankind."
- Swift: "Description of the Morning"; "Verse on the Death of Dr. Swift."
- Pope: "An Essay on Criticism"; An Essay on Man (I, III); "Epistle to the Earl of Buckingham"; "The Rape of the Lock"; "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot."
- Thomson: "Winter."
- Gray: "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"; "The Bard."
- Johnson: "The Vanity of Human Wishes."
- Butler: Hudibras (I, i).

Prose:

- Dryden: "An Essay on Dramatic Poesy."
- Swift: "A Tale of the Tub"; Gulliver's Travels; "Argument Against Abolishing Christianity"; "A Modest Proposal."
- Addison and Steele: Spectator #2, 10, 62, 81, 112, 249, 409, 519.
- Johnson: Rasselas; Rambler #4, 60, 208; Idler #16, 60, 61; Preface to "Lives of Dryden, Pope, Milton, Cowley."
- Goldsmith: "Essay on the Theater"; The Citizens of the World (Letter #21, 119).
- Boswell: Life of Johnson (in a modern abridgment, such as Dell or Random House).

Drama:

- Dryden: The Conquest of Granada; All for Love.
- Etherege: The Man of Mode.
- Wycherley: The Country Wife; The Plain Dealer.
- Congreve: The Way of the World.
- Farquhar: Beaux's Stratagem.
- Steele: The Conscious Lovers.
- Gay: The Begger's Opera.
- Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer.

- Sheridan: The Rivals; The School for Scandal.
- Buckingham: The Rehearsal.
- Otway: Venice Preserved.
- Lillo: The London Merchant.

Novels:

- Defoe: Moll Flanders.
- Richardson: Clarissa.
- Fielding: Tom Jones.
- Sterne: Tristram Shandy.

Nineteenth Century

Poetry:

(Selections may be found in Perkins, English Romantic Writers, and in The Norton Anthology of English Literature.)

- Wordsworth: “Tintern Abbey”; The Prelude (books I and II); “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; sonnets (“It is a Beauteous Evening”; “To Toussaint L’Ouverture”; “London, 1802”; “The World Is Too Much with Us”); “The Solitary Reaper”; “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.”
- Coleridge: “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”; “Christabel”; “Kubla Khan”; “Frost at Midnight”; “Dejection: An Ode.”
- Blake: Songs of Innocence and Experience; “America: A Prophecy.”
- Byron: Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage (Cantos III, IV); Don Juan (Dedication, Cantos I-IV); “Darkness”; “Prometheus”; “Stanzas for Music” (“There’s not a joy the world can give”).
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: Prometheus Unbound; “Adonais”; “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”; “Ode to the West Wind”; “To a Sky-Lark.”
- Keats: “Ode to a Nightingale”; “Ode on a Grecian Urn”; “The Eve of St. Agnes”; “To Autumn”; “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”; “On sitting down to read King Lear once again”; “When I have fears”; “Bright Star.”
- Tennyson: “The Lady of Shalott”; “Oenone,” “The Palace of Art”; “The Lotos-Eaters”; “Morte d’Arthur”; “Ulysses”; “The Two Voices”; “Locksley Hall”; In Memoriam A. H. H.; “Sixty Years After”; “The Last Tournament.”
- Browning: “Pippa Passes”; “My Last Duchess”; “Bishop Blougram’s Apology”; “Fra Lippo Lippi”; “Andrea Del Sarto”; “Childe Roland”; “The Bishop Orders His Tomb”; “Love Among the Ruins”; “The Statue and the Bust”; “Cleon”; “Caliban Upon Setebos”; The Ring and the Book (Book I).
- Arnold: “In Harmony with Nature”; “The Forsaken Mermaid”; “Sohrab and Rustum”; “The Scholar-Gypsy”; “Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse”; “Thyrsis”; “Dover Beach.”
- D. G. Rossetti: “The Blessed Damozel”; “Sister Helen”; selected sonnets from The House of Life.

- FitzGerald: The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.
- Swinburne: “Laus Veneris”; “Hymn to Proserpine”; “The Garden of Proserpine.”
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning: Selections from Sonnets from the Portuguese.
- Christina Rossetti: “Goblin Market.”
- George Meredith: Modern Love; “Lucifer in Starlight.”
- William Morris: “The Defense of Guenivere”; “The Haystack in the Floods.”
- Wilde: “The Harlot’s House”; “The Ballad of Reading Gaol.”
- Hardy: “Hap”; “Channel Firing”; “The Convergence of the Twain.”
- Hopkins: “The Windhover”; “The Wreck of The Deutschland”; the “dark” sonnets.

Prose:

- Wordsworth: “Preface” to 1800 edition of Lyrical Ballads.
- Coleridge: Biographia Literaria (chapters I, IV, XIV, XX, XXII).
- Shelley: A Defence of Poetry.
- Keats: all letters contained in Perkins, English Romantic Writers or in The Norton Anthology (smaller selection than in Perkins, but excellent).
- Newman: “The Idea of a University” (Discourse VI); “Apologia.”
- Carlyle: from Sartor Resartus (“The Everlasting No, The Everlasting Yea”).
- Macaulay: “Samuel Johnson.”
- Ruskin: Modern Painters (a few pages of description from part II of vol. I); from The Stones of Venice (“The Nature of Gothic”); from Unto This Last (“Roots of Honor”).
- Arnold: Culture and Anarchy (Chapters 1-4); “Literature and Science”; “Literature and Dogma” (Chapter 12).
- Huxley: “Liberal Education”; “Science and Culture.”
- Pater: from The Renaissance (“Preface,” “Leonardo da Vinci,” “Conclusion”).

Novel:

- Austen: Pride and Prejudice.
- Dickens: David Copperfield; Great Expectations.
- Thackeray: Vanity Fair.
- Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre.
- Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights.
- Trollope: Barchester Towers.
- George Eliot: Middlemarch.
- Hardy: Tess of the D’Urbervilles; The Mayor of Casterbridge.

Drama:

- Wilde: The Importance of Being Earnest.

Twentieth Century

Poetry:

- Yeats: “The Magi”; “The Wild Swans at Coole”; “Easter 1916”; “The Second Coming”; “Sailing to Byzantium”; “Byzantium”; “Leda and the Swan”; “Among School Children”; “News for the Delphic Oracle”; “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”; “Under Ben Bulbin.”
- Eliot: The Waste Land; “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; “Gerontion”; Four Quartets.
- Dylan Thomas: “I see the boys of summer”; “The force that through the green fuse drives the flower”; “If I were tickled by the rub of love”; “And death shall have no dominion”; “When all my five and country senses see”; “After the funeral (In memory of Ann Jones)”; “A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London”; “Do not go gentle into that good night”; “Fern Hill”; “Lament.”

Criticism:

- Eliot: “Tradition and The Individual Talent”; “Hamlet.”
- Richards: Principles of Literary Criticism; Practical Criticism.

Drama:

- Shaw: Pygmalion; Major Barbara; Man and Superman; St. Joan; Heartbreak House.
- Synge: The Playboy of the Western World; Riders to the Sea.
- O’Casey: Juno and the Paycock.
- Eliot: Murder in the Cathedral.
- Yeats: The Hour Glass; Purgatory.
- Beckett: Waiting for Godot.
- Osbourne: Look Back in Anger.
- Pinter: The Homecoming; No Man’s Land.
- Stoppard: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.
- Storey: The Contractor.

Novel:

- Conrad: Heart of Darkness; Lord Jim.
- Lawrence: The Rainbow; Sons and Lovers.
- Forster: A Passage to India.
- Joyce: A Portrait of the Artist; Ulysses.
- Greene: The Heart of the Matter.
- Woolf: To the Lighthouse.

American Literature

Nineteenth Century

Poetry:

- Whitman: "Song of Myself"; "When Lilacs Last in the Door-yard Bloom'd"; "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"; "Passage to India."
- Dickinson: "I heard a Fly buzz - when I died-"; "Because I could not stop for Death-"; "My life closed twice before its close"; "A Bird came down the Walk"; "I started Early - Took my Dog"; "The last Night that She lived-"; "There's a certain Slant of light"; "I never saw a Moor"; "I know that He exists"; "I could not live with You."
- Poe: "The Raven"; "Ulalume"; "To Helen"; "Sonnet: To Science"; "Israfel"; "Annabel Lee."

Prose:

- Emerson: Nature.
- Thoreau: Walden.

Novel:

- Cooper: The Deerslayer; The Pioneers.
- Hawthorne: The Scarlet Letter; "Young Goodman Brown"; "The Artist of the Beautiful"; "Rappaccini's Daughter"; "The Celestial Railroad"; "Ethan Brand"; "The Maypole of Merrymount."
- Melville: Moby Dick; "Bartleby the Scrivener".
- Twain: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
- Henry James: Portrait of a Lady; The Sacred Fount; The Ambassadors.
- Crane: The Red Badge of Courage.
- Norris: The Octopus.

Twentieth Century

Poetry:

- Frost: "Mending Wall"; "The Road Not Taken"; "The Death of the Hired Man"; "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"; "Two Tramps in Mud Time"; "Home Burial"; "Birches"; "The Wood-Pile"; "Hyla Brook"; "After Apple-Picking"; "To Earthward"; "I Have Been One Acquainted with the Night."
- Pound: Cantos I-IV, XLV: Hugh Selwyn Mauberley.
- Stevens: "Peter Quince at the Clavier"; "Le Monocle de Mon Oncle"; "Anecdote of the Jar"; "Fabliau of Florida"; "The Man Whose Pharynx Was Bad"; "The Snow

Man”; “The Comedian as the Letter C”; “The Emperor of Ice Cream”; “Sailing After Lunch”; “Of Mere Being.”

- William Carlos Williams: “A Ball Game”; “Danse Russe”; “El Hombre”; “January Morning”; “Overture to a Dance of Locomotives”; “The Parable of the Blind”; “St. Francis Einstein of the Daffodils”; “The Attic Which Is Desire”; “The Botticellian Trees”; “The Dance”; “The Red Wheelbarrow”; “To A Poor Old Woman”; “This Is Just to Say”; “Elsie.”

Novel:

- Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises; A Farewell to Arms.
- Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury.
- Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby.
- Dreiser: An American Tragedy; Sister Carrie.
- Bellow: Seize the Day.
- Nabokov: Lolita.

Drama:

- Rice: The Adding Machine.
- Odets: Waiting for Lefty.
- Hellman: The Little Foxes.
- O’Neill: The Emperor Jones; Mourning Becomes Electra; The Iceman Cometh; Long Day’s Journey Into Night.
- Wilder: Our Town.
- Miller: Death of a Salesman.
- Jones: A Texas Trilogy.
- Rabe: Streamers.

Literary Theory and Criticism:

While this grouping should not be considered as a category in the same sense as those above, the following should be minimally required in addition to those included in the various historical periods.

1. Aristotle: Poetics.
2. Wellek and Warren: Theory of Literature, 3rd ed.; 1956, Chapters 2, 3, 12, through 17.
3. Cleanth Brooks: “The Formalist Critics” From The Kenyon Review, XIII (Winter 1951), 72-81; “Irony as a Principle of Structure” from Literary Opinion in America (M.D. Zobel, ed.) and Critical Theory Since Plato (H. Adams, ed.).
4. Herbert Read: “Psychoanalysis & Criticism” from Twentieth-Century Criticism (Handy and Westbrook, etc.).
5. Northrop Frye: “The Archetypes of Literature” from Fables of Identity.
6. Martin Esslin: “The Significance of the Absurd” from The Theater of the Absurd.
7. Wimsatt and Brooks: Literary Criticism: A Short History. Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18 through 21, and 26.

8. Dahlstrom: Strindberg's Dramatic Expressionism. Chapters on the general characteristics of Expressionism.
9. A Grammar of Literary Criticism (L.S. Hall, ed.) Chapters on Surrealism.
10. Sartre: "Why Write?" from What is Literature?

A Must-Read List for Teachers. If this has you nodding along, then I'd like to see if I might provide some helpful tools as we move through the summer. I realize this summer is like no other, depending on what your district is doing in and around the virus, returning to school, professional development, etc. Consider the following a Summer Reading List for the Master Teacher who is genuinely interested in promoting learning amongst students. Contribute to stefan-it/reading-list development by creating an account on GitHub. GitHub is home to over 40 million developers working together to host and review code, manage projects, and build software together. Sign up. My reading list for deep learning research. relation-extraction reading-comprehension neural-networks classification neural-machine-translation reading-list. 65 commits.