

Creative Writing Specialty Comprehensive Exam Reading List for Poets

We suggest students buy all full novels or poetry collections on the list as well as *Selected Poems of Anne Sexton* (Eds. Diane Wood Middlebrook and Diana Hume George), *Claims for Poetry* (Donald Hall, Ed.), Gardner's *The Art of Fiction*, and Flannery O'Connor *Mystery and Manners*.

Remaining poems can be found in anthologies like *Contemporary American Poetry* (Ed. A. Poulin, Jr.) or *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*. The department has copies of poems and short stories that are not available from reputable websites on file in the English department and some books on reserve in the Axe

A Deep Look at Three Poets: Sexton, Clifton, and Lee

Anne Sexton *from Selected Poems of Anne Sexton* (in order of appearance in the collection)

Her Kind

Ring the Bells

Lullaby

The Truth the Dead Know

To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph

The Starry Night,

Old Dwarf Heart

The Operation

With Mercy for the Greedy

For Eleanor Boylan Talking with God

And One for My Dame

Flee on Your Donkey

Somewhere in Africa

Consorting with Angels

Walking in Paris

Menstruation at Forty

The Breast

In Celebration of My Uterus

For My Lover, Returning to His Wife

Just Once

You All Know the Story of the Other Woman

The Ballad of the Lonely Masturbator

Song for a Lady

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Rapunzel

Dreaming the Breasts

The Silence

From Death of the Fathers [parts 1-4]

Angels of the Love Affair

The Fury of Beautiful Bones

The Fury of Guitars and Sopranos

The Fury of Cooks
The Fury of Cocks
The Fury of Sunsets

Lucile Clifton *Blessing the Boats*

David Lee *The Porcine Canticles*

A Baker's Dozen of Poets Representing a Wide Variety of Craft Choices and Styles

Seven Poems by Robert Frost

After Apple-Picking
Birches
Design"
Directive
Home Burial
"Out, Out—"
The Witch of Coös

Twelve Poems by William Carlos Williams

A Sort of a Song
Danse Russe
Landscape with the Fall of Icarus
Queen Anne's Lace
Portrait of a Lady
Spring and All
The Dance ["In Breughel's great picture"]
The Great Figure
The Sparrow
The Widow's Lament in Springtime
To a Poor Old Woman
To Elsie

Ten Poems by Theodore Roethke

Cuttings
Cuttings" (later)
Elegy for Jane
Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartze
I Knew a Woman
Journey to the Interior
My Papa's Waltz
Orchids
Root Cellar
The Far Field

Eight Poems by Robinson Jeffers

Calm and Full the Ocean
Credo
Carmel Point
Fawn's Foster-Mother
Hands
Hurt Hawks
Shine, Perishing Republic
The Purse Seine

Eleven Poems by Robert Hayden

A Plague of Starlings
Bone-Flower Elegy
For a Young Artist
Homage to the Empress of the Blues
Middle Passage
Monet's "Waterlilies"
Night, Death, Mississippi
O Daedalus, Fly Away Home
The Ballad of Sue Ellen Westerfield
The Tattooed Man
Those Winter Sundays

Seven Poems by A.R. Ammons

Cascadilla Falls
Catalyst
Corsons Inlet
Mechanism
Motion
Garbage [Sections 1-5]
The City Limits

Three Poems by Allen Ginsberg

America
A Supermarket in California
Howl

Eleven Poems by Alberto Ríos

Across this Bridge of Dreams
A Man Then Suddenly Stops Moving
A Photograph from the Revolution: Guayamas to Nogales
Day of the Refugios
Dressing for Dinner
Indentations in the Sugar
Some Extensions on the Sovereignty of Science
Teodoro Luna's Two Kisses

The Blurred Woman in the Photograph
The Purpose of Altar Boys
Writing from Memory

Five Poems by Rita Dove

After *Reading Mickey in the Night Kitchen* for the Third Time Before Bed
Agosta the Winged Man and Rasha the Black Dove
Grape Sherbet
Parsley
Weathering Out

Six Poems by Jane Kenyon

Happiness
Having it Out with Melancholy
Let Evening Come
Otherwise
Not Writing
The Suitor

Six Poems by Naomi Shihab Nye

The Travelling Onion
Making a Fist
The World in Translation
Arabic
Famous
Arabic Coffee

Nine Poems by Billy Collins

Another Reason Why I Don't Keep a Gun in the House
A Portrait of the Reader with a Bowl of Cereal
Candle Hat
Hell
Man in Space
Memento Mori
Pie Man
Questions about Angels
I Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Art Blakey's Version of "Three Blind Mice"

Sixteen poems by Carol Frost

Apple Rind
Blue Crab
Chimera
Egret
Fury
Icarus in Winter
Influenza

Eating the Whole
Ode to the Horseshoe Crab
Red Deer
Sexual Jealousy
The Embroidery
The Fairy Tale
The Haircut
The Winter without Snow
To Kill a Deer

The Poet's Five Fiction Selections: 7 Authors

Three Stories by Eudora Welty

Lily Daw and the Ladies
Where Is the Voice Coming From
Why I Live at the P.O.

Three Stories by Flannery O'Connor

A Good Man is Hard to Find
Everything That Rises Must Converge
Good Country People

Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*

Three Stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings
Blacamán the Good, Vendor of Miracles
The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World

Three Stories by Lydia Davis

If, at the Wedding
Molly, Female Cat
The Two Davises and the Rug

Two Stories by ZZ Packer

Brownies
Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

Two Stories by Grace Paley

A Conversation with My Father
Wants

Poetry and Fiction Theory

Henry James "The Art of Fiction"

Ezra Pound “A Retrospect” & “Affirmations”

Robert Frost “The Figure a Poem Makes”

Flannery O’Connor “Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction” & “The Nature and Aim of Fiction”

John Gardner “The Preface” and “Part One” of *The Art of Fiction*

Alicia Ostriker “The Nerves of a Midwife: Contemporary American Women’s Poetry”

Adrienne Rich “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision”

Wayne Booth “Control and Distance in Jane Austen’s *Emma*”

A.R. Ammons “A Poem Is a Walk”

Donald Hall “Goatfoot, Milktongue, Twinbird: The Psychic Origins of Poetic Form”

Robert Bly “What the Image Can Do”

W.D. Snodgrass “Tact and the Poet’s Force”

Charles Baxter “On Defamiliarization” & “Counterpointed Characterization”

Antonya Nelson “Short Story: A Process of Revision”

Francine Prose “Learning from Chekhov”

Creative Writing Specialty Comprehensive Exam Reading List for Fiction Writers

We suggest students buy all full novels or poetry collections on the list as well as *Selected Poems of Anne Sexton* (Eds. Diane Wood Middlebrook and Diana Hume George), *Claims for Poetry* (Donald Hall, Ed.), Gardner's *The Art of Fiction*, and Flannery O'Connor *Mystery and Manners*.

Remaining poems can be found in anthologies like *Contemporary American Poetry* (Ed. A. Poulin, Jr.) or *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*. The department has copies of poems and short stories that are not available from reputable websites on file in the English department and some books on reserve in the Axe

The Fiction Writer's 5 Poetry Selections: 7 Authors

Seven Poems by Robert Frost

After Apple-Picking
Birches
Design"
Directive
Home Burial
"Out, Out—"
The Witch of Coös

Twelve Poems by William Carlos Williams

A Sort of a Song
Danse Russe
Landscape with the Fall of Icarus
Queen Anne's Lace
Portrait of a Lady
Spring and All
The Dance ["In Breughel's great picture"]
The Great Figure
The Sparrow
The Widow's Lament in Springtime
To a Poor Old Woman
To Elsie

Eleven Poems by Robert Hayden

A Plague of Starlings
Bone-Flower Elegy
For a Young Artist
Homage to the Empress of the Blues
Middle Passage
Monet's "Waterlilies"
Night, Death, Mississippi
O Daedalus, Fly Away Home

The Ballad of Sue Ellen Westerfield
The Tattooed Man
Those Winter Sundays

Anne Sexton *from Selected Poems of Anne Sexton (in order of appearance in the collection)*

Her Kind
Ringing the Bells
Lullaby
The Truth the Dead Know
To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph
The Starry Night,
Old Dwarf Heart
The Operation
With Mercy for the Greedy
For Eleanor Boylan Talking with God
And One for My Dame
Flee on Your Donkey
Somewhere in Africa
Consorting with Angels
Walking in Paris
Menstruation at Forty
The Breast
In Celebration of My Uterus
For My Lover, Returning to His Wife
Just Once
You All Know the Story of the Other Woman
The Ballad of the Lonely Masturbator
Song for a Lady
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Rapunzel
Dreaming the Breasts
The Silence
From Death of the Fathers [parts 1-4]
Angels of the Love Affair
The Fury of Beautiful Bones
The Fury of Guitars and Sopranos
The Fury of Cooks
The Fury of Cocks
The Fury of Sunsets

Three Poems by Allen Ginsberg

America
A Supermarket in California
Howl

Lucile Clifton *Blessing the Boats*

David Lee *The Porcine Canticles*

A Baker's Dozen plus one of Fiction Writers Representing a Wide Variety of Craft Choices and Styles

Three Stories by Anton Chekhov

Gusev

The Lady with the Pet Dog

The Two Volodyas

Two Stories by Ernest Hemingway

A Clean Well-Lighted Place

Hills Like White Elephants

Three Stories by Katherine Anne Porter

Flowering Judas

The Grave

The Jilting of Granny Weatherall

Three Stories by Eudora Welty

Lily Daw and the Ladies

Where Is the Voice Coming From

Why I Live at the P.O.

Three Stories by Flannery O'Connor

A Good Man is Hard to Find

Everything That Rises Must Converge

Good Country People

Three Stories by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

Blacamán the Good, Vendor of Miracles

The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World

Two Stories by Grace Paley

A Conversation with My Father

Wants

Two Stories by Tobias Wolff

Bullet in the Brain

Hunters in the Snow

Three Stories by Alice Munro

Boys and Girls

Runaway

Turkey Season

Three Stories by Raymond Carver

A Small Good Thing

Cathedral

What We Talk About When We Talk About Love

Three Stories by George Saunders

CivilWar Land in Bad Decline

Sea Oak

Semplica Girl Diaries

Two Stories by Jhumpa Lahiri

Interpreter of Maladies

Temporary Matter

Two Stories by ZZ Packer

Brownies

Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

Three Stories by Lydia Davis

If, at the Wedding

Molly, Female Cat

The Two Davises and the Rug

A Deep Look at Four Writers: Faulkner, Gay, Machado, and Robinson

William Faulkner *As I Lay Dying*

William Gay *Twilight*

Carmen Maria Machado *Her Body and Other Parties*

Marilynne Robinson *Housekeeping*

Poetry and Fiction Theory

Henry James “The Art of Fiction”

Ezra Pound “A Retrospect” & “Affirmations”

Robert Frost “The Figure a Poem Makes”

Flannery O’Connor “Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction” & “The Nature and Aim of Fiction”

John Gardner “The Preface” and “Part One” of *The Art of Fiction*

Alicia Ostriker “The Nerves of a Midwife: Contemporary American Women’s Poetry”

Adrienne Rich “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision”

Wayne Booth “Control and Distance in Jane Austen’s *Emma*”

A.R. Ammons “A Poem Is a Walk”

Donald Hall “Goatfoot, Milktonque, Twinbird: The Psychic Origins of Poetic Form”

Robert Bly “What the Image Can Do”

W.D. Snodgrass “Tact and the Poet’s Force”

Charles Baxter “On Defamiliarization” & “Counterpointed Characterization”

Antonya Nelson “Short Story: A Process of Revision”

Francine Prose “Learning from Chekhov”