

## BRITISH LITERATURE BEFORE 1789 (A SIMPLIFIED LIST)

### THE CORE:

- ☛ *Beowulf*
- ☛ *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- ☛ Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*: “General Prologue,” “The Knight’s Tale,” “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale,” “The Reeve’s Prologue and Tale,” and “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue & Tale”
- ☛ Shakespeare (Choose **three**):
  - ☐ *Hamlet*
  - ☐ *Othello*
  - ☐ *MacBeth*
  - ☐ *King Lear*
  - ☐ *Twelfth Night*
  - ☐ *The Tempest*
- ☛ Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books I, II, IV, IX, X)
- ☛ Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*
- ☛ Pope, *An Essay on Man* (Epistle 1 & Epistle 2, lines 1-18)
- ☛ Austen (Choose **one**):
  - ☐ *Pride and Prejudice*
  - ☐ *Emma*
  - ☐ *Persuasion*

### AUXILIARY LIST:

Choose 15 items from the following. Be sure your selections cover the several literary periods and include works representing all major genres.

#### ANGLO-SAXON & MEDIEVAL

- ☐ Anglo-Saxon Elegy (read all):
  - “The Wanderer”
  - “The Seafarer”
  - “The Dream of the Rood”
  - “The Battle of Maldon”
- ☐ Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (read all)
  - “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”
  - “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”
  - “The Clerk’s Tale”
  - “The Franklin’s Prologue and Tale”
- ☐ Langland, *Piers Plowman* (prose translation; selections)
- ☐ Julian of Norwich, *A Book of Showings* (selections) & Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* (selections)
- ☐ Malory, *Morte D’Arthur* (The Birth of Arthur, the Knight in the Cart, the Death of Arthur)
- ☐ *Everyman*
- ☐ *The Second Shepherd’s Play*

## RENAISSANCE (EARLY MODERN)

### DRAMA

- ☐ Marlowe, *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*
- ☐ Jonson, *The Alchemist*
- ☐ Middleton & Rowley, *The Changeling*
- ☐ Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*
- ☐ Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

### POETRY

- ☐ Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*
- ☐ Spenser, *Amoretti & Epithalamion*
- ☐ Shakespeare, *Sonnets*
- ☐ Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*
- ☐ Renaissance Lyrics (read all):
  - **Wyatt**, "Whoso List to Hunt," "My Galley," "They Flee From Me," "My Lute, Awake!," "Blame Not My Lute"
  - **Surrey**, "Love that Doth Reign," "The Soote Season"
  - **Elizabeth I**, "The Doubt of Future Foes," "On Monsieur's Departure"
  - **Raleigh**, "To His Son," "The Lie," "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"
  - **Marlowe**, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"
- ☐ Cavalier and Metaphysical Poetry (read all)
  - **Jonson**, "On My First Daughter," "On My First Son," "Inviting a Friend to Supper," "To Penshurst," "Still to Be Neat," "Ode to Himself"
  - **Herrick**, "Delight in Disorder," "Corinna's Going A-Maying," "To the Virgins," "The Hock-Cart," "Upon Julia's Clothes"
  - **Donne**, "The Flea," "The Good-Morrow," "Go and Catch a Falling Star," "The Canonization," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "The Ecstasy," *Holy Sonnets* # 1, 5, 10, 14, & 18, "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward"
  - **Herbert**, "The Altar," "Easter Wings," "Redemption," "The Windows," "Man," "The Collar," "The Pulley," "Heaven," "Love (III)"

### PROSE

- ☐ More, *Utopia*
- ☐ Elizabeth I, "To the English Troops at Tilbury," "On Mary, Queen of Scots," "On Mary's Execution," "The Golden Speech"
- ☐ Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry*
- ☐ Bacon, Ten essays from *Counsels, Civil and Moral*

## SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

### DRAMA

- ☐ Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (1676)
- ☐ Behn, *The Rover* (1677)
- ☐ Dryden, *All for Love* (1677)

### POETRY

- ☐ Butler, *Hudibras* (*Canto 1*)
- ☐ Restoration Lyrics (read all)
  - **K. Philips**, “A Married State,” “On the Death of My First and Dearest Child,” “To Mrs. Mary Awbrey at Parting,” “To My Excellent Lucasia,” “The World”
  - **Cavendish**, “The Hunting of the Hare”
  - **Marvell**, “To His Coy Mistress,” “The Mower Against Gardens,” “Damon the Mower,” “The Mower to the Glowworms,” “The Mower’s Song,” “The Garden”
  - **Rochester**, “The Disabled Debauchee,” “The Imperfect Enjoyment,” “Song: Love a Woman, You’re an Ass,” “A Satire Against Mankind,” “Upon Nothing”
  - **Behn**, “The Disappointment,” “To the Fair Clarinda,” “On the Death of the Late Earl of Rochester,” “To Mrs W. on Her Excellent Verses,” “A Letter to a Brother of the Pen in Tribulation”
- ☐ Milton, “L’ Allegro,” “Il Penseroso,” “Lycidas”
- ☐ Dryden, “MacFlecknoe”
- ☐ Dryden, “Absalom and Achitophel”

### PROSE (FICTION, ESSAY, & CRITICISM)

- ☐ Milton, *Areopagitica*
- ☐ Bunyan, *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (Part 1)
- ☐ Behn, *Oroonoko*
- ☐ Dryden, *Of Dramatic Poesy, an Essay*
- ☐ Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Book III, Chapters 1, 2, 9, 10, 11)

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

### DRAMA

- ☐ Centlivre, *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*
- ☐ Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*
- ☐ Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*

### POETRY

- ☐ Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* **OR** *Windsor-Forest*
- ☐ Eighteenth-Century Lyrics (read all):
  - **Finch**, “Nocturne,” “The Petition for an Absolute Retreat”
  - **Swift**, “A Description of the Morning,” “A Description of a City Shower,” “The Lady’s Dressing-Room”
  - **Montagu**, “The Reasons that Induced Dr. S. to Write a Poem Called *The Lady’s Dressing-Room*”
  - **Gray**, “Ode on a Prospect of Eton College,” “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
  - **Cowper**, “The Cast-away”

### PROSE & CRITICISM

- ☐ Addison and Steele, Selections from *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*
- ☐ Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*
- ☐ Swift, “A Modest Proposal”
- ☐ Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters*

### FICTION

- ☐ Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* **OR** *Moll Flanders*
- ☐ Richardson, *Pamela*
- ☐ Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* **OR** *Tom Jones*
- ☐ Burney, *Evelina*
- ☐ Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*