

# Creative Writing *for fictioners*

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## Reading List for the Comprehensive Examination

### Master of Arts in English, Pittsburg State University

You must read all items on this list\*. The comprehensive exam will cover these items. Please also refer to the CW Comps Guide.

## Primary Works in Poetry

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1. Anne Sexton from *Selected Poems of Anne Sexton*: "Her Kind," "Unknown Girl in a Maternity Ward," "The Moss of His Skin," "Ringing the Bells," "Lullaby," the entire contents of "From *All My Pretty Ones*" as collected in this volume, "And One for My Dame," "Flee on Your Donkey," "Somewhere in Africa," "Consorting with Angels," "Walking in Paris," "Menstruation at Forty," "Little Girl, My Stringbean, My Lovely Woman," the entire contents of "From *Love Poems*" as collected in this volume, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Rapunzel," "Dreaming the Breasts," "The Silence," "from Death of the Fathers," "Angels of the Love Affair," and "from The Furies."
2. Lucille Clifton *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988-2000*.
3. **Ríos**: "The Purpose of Altar Boys," "A Photograph from the Revolution: Guayamas to Nogales," "Indentations in the Sugar," "Dressing for Dinner," "Teodoro Luna's Two Kisses," "Day of the Refugios"; **Stafford**: "Travelling Through the Dark," "At the Bomb Testing Site," "Ask Me," "At Fourth and Main in Liberal, Kansas"; **Simic**: "Charles Simic," "Fork," "Poem ['Every Morning']," "Toy Factory," "The Big War," "Crazy about Her Shrimp"; **Weigl**: "Song of Napalm," "Burning Shit at An Khe," "Snowy Egret"; **Ginsberg**: "Howl."
4. **Dove**: "Daystar," "Dusting," "Parsley," "After Reading Mickey in the Night Kitchen for the Third Time Before Bed," "Grape Sherbet"; **Nye**: "The Travelling Onion," "The World in Translation," "Arabic," "Famous," "Arabic Coffee"; **Collins**: "A Portrait of the Reader with a Bowl of Cereal," "To a Stranger Born in Some Distant Country Hundreds of Years from Now," "Picnic, Lightning," "Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes"; **Hirsch**: "For the Sleepwalkers," "Omen," "Wild Gratitude"; **Ginsberg**: "America," "Supermarket in California."

## Primary Works in Fiction

1. Flannery O'Connor from *Everything That Rises Must Converge*: "Everything That Rises Must Converge," "Greenleaf," "A View of the Woods," "The Lame Shall Enter First,"

"Revelation," "Parker's Back," and from other texts: "A Good Man is Hard to Find," "Good Country People," and "The Artificial Nigger."

2. **Baldwin:** "Sonny's Blues; **Bambara:** "The Lesson"; **Erdrich:** "Fleur"; **Barth:** "Lost in the Funhouse"; **Mukherjee:** "A Wife's Story"; **O'Brien:** "The Things They Carried"; **Paley:** "A Conversation with My Father."
3. **Mason:** "Shiloh"; **Ford:** "Rock Springs"; **J. Williams:** "Taking Care;" **Adams:** "Barcelona"; **Updike:** "A&P"; **Faulkner:** "Barn Burning" **Boyle:** "Greasy Lake."l
4. J.D. Salinger *Nine Stories*.
5. Jhumpa Lahiri *Interpreter of Maladies*.
6. Anne Tyler *The Accidental Tourist*
7. Alice Walker *The Color Purple*.
8. Raymond Carver from *Where I'm Calling From: Selected Stories*: "Nobody Said Anything," "Bicycles, Muscles and Cigarettes," "They're Not Your Husband," "Fat," "Neighbors," "Are These Actual Miles," "Little Things," "Why Don't You Dance," "What We Talk About When We Talk about Love," "So Much Water So Close to Home," "Chef's House," "Feathers," "Cathedral," "A Small Good Thing," "Elephant."
9. Jeffrey Eugenides *Middlesex*.
10. Eudora Welty *Thirteen Stories*
11. Gabriel Garcia Marquez from *Collected Stories*: "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World," "Blacamán the Good, Vendor of Miracles," "The Incredible and Sad Tale of Innocent Eréndira."

**Creative Writing students must test in Creative Writing, American Literature, and a revised shorter (@ 20 item) British Literature list each created with the advisement of the student's faculty mentors.** The lead mentor on the American and Creative Writing Comprehensives Committee must be a Creative Writing faculty member.