

The following is a list of recommended readings for English majors and minors. I have culled this selection from the admirable, if daunting, list compiled by the English Department (available to you in the main office). In a few cases I have amended its recommendations. If you supplement your readings for class during the school year and set reasonable summer-reading goals, you should be able to read the vast majority of these works by the time you graduate. Note, however, that this list is meant as a good beginning, not a conclusion.

The designation "(selections)" refers to standard excerpts found in anthologies such as those published by Norton and Macmillan.

I am grateful to Professors Anderson and Shumaker for their additional suggestions.

—Dr. Fowler

I. Classical Literature (Greek and Roman)

Homer, *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, *Antigone*

Euripides, *Medea*, *The Bacchae*

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (selections)

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (selections)

II. Postclassical European Literature

A. The Middle Ages

Dante, *The Inferno*, selections from *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*

B. The Renaissance

Rabelais, selections from Books I and II of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (selections)

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

C. Neoclassicism

Moliere, *Tartuffe*

Racine, *Phaedra*

Voltaire, *Candide*

D. Romanticism

Goethe, *Faust* (Part I)

Rousseau, *Confessions* (selections)

E. 19th-Century Realism and Naturalism

Gogol, "The Overcoat"

Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*

Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*

Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

Ibsen, *A Doll's House*, *Hedda Gabler*

Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*, "The Lady with the Pet Dog"

Baudelaire, "To the Reader," "Correspondences," "A Carcass," "Voyage to Cythera," "Spleen (IV)"

F. Modernism (20th Century)

Mann, *Death in Venice*, "Disorder and Early Sorrow," "Mario and the Magician"

Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*, "A Hunger Artist"

Rilke, "Archaic Torso of Apollo"

Camus, *The Plague*

Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Brecht, *Mother Courage and Her Children*

III. English Literature

A. The Middle Ages (to 1485)

(Anon.), *Beowulf* (may be read in translation)

(Anon.) *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (may be read in modernized version)

Chaucer, General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Knight's Tale," "The Miller's Tale," "The Wife of Bath's Prologue"

(Anon.), *The Second Shepherds' Play*

(Anon.), *Everyman*

Malory, selections from Books XX and XXI of *Le Morte Darthur*

B. The Renaissance and Seventeenth Century (1485-1660)

More, *Utopia* (selections)

Wyatt, "They Flee from Me," "Whoso List to Hunt," "Mine Own John Pains"

Surrey, "Epitaph on Sir Thomas Wyatt" ("Wyatt resteth here")

Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* sonnets 2, 5, 15, 21, 31, 45, 49, 52, 71, 81

Spenser, *The Faerie Queen*, Book I; *Amoretti* 37, 54, 67, 68, 75, 79

Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"

Shakespeare, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, Sonnets 3, 18, 20, 29, 30, 55, 60, 71, 73, 94, 116, 129, 130, 138, 144, 146

Jonson, *Volpone*, "Song: to Celia," "To the Memory of My Beloved, the Author, Mr. William Shakespeare," "Inviting a Friend to Supper," "To Penshurst"

Donne, "The Good Morrow," "Song" ("Go and catch a falling star"), "The Canonization," "The Flea," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Good Friday, 1613: Riding Westward," *Holy Sonnets* 5, 7, 10, 14, "Hymn to God My God, in My Sickness"

Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*

Herbert, "Easter Wings," "The Altar," "The Collar," "The Pulley"

Marvell, "Bermudas," "To His Coy Mistress," "The Coronet"

Milton, "L' Allegro," "Il Penseroso," "Lycidas," *Paradise Lost*, "How Soon Hath Time," "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent," "Methought I Saw My Late Espoused Saint"

C. The Restoration and Eighteenth Century (1660-1798)

Dryden, "Mac Flecknoe"

Congreve, *The Way of the World*

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift," "A Modest Proposal"

Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot"

Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Johnson, "The Vanity of Human Wishes"

Boswell, *Life of Johnson* (selections)

Fielding, *Tom Jones* (or *Joseph Andrews*)

Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*

Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College," "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

D. Romantic Period (1798-1832)

Blake, from *Songs of Innocence* "The Lamb," "The Little Black Boy," "The Chimney Sweeper," "Holy Thursday"; from *Songs of Experience* "The Tyger," "The Chimney Sweeper," "Holy Thursday," "London," "The Sick Rose"

Wordsworth, "Lines . . ." ("Tintern Abbey"), *The Two-Part Prelude*, "Michael," "Resolution and Independence," "Ode: Intimations of Immortality," "Elegiac Stanzas," "The World Is Too Much with Us"

Coleridge, "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison," *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, "Kubla Khan," "Frost at Midnight," "Dejection: An Ode"

Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (selections from Cantos III and IV), *Don Juan* (selections from Canto I)

Shelley, "Mont Blanc," "Ode to the West Wind," "The Cloud," "To a Sky-Lark"

Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "La Belle Dame sans Merci," "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Ode on Melancholy," "To Autumn"

Hazlitt, "My First Acquaintance with Poets"

Lamb, "Old China"

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

E. Victorian Period (1832-1901)

Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Carlyle, "Signs of the Times"

Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott," "The Lotos-Eaters," "Ulysses," "Tithonus," *In Memoriam A. H. H.* (selections)

Browning, "Porphyria's Lover," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister," "My Last Duchess," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church," "'Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came,'" "Fra Lippo Lippi," "Andrea del Sarto"

Arnold, "Isolation. To Marguerite," "To Marguerite—Continued," "The Buried Life," "Memorial Verses," "Dover Beach," "Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse"

Ruskin, "The Savageness of Gothic Architecture" from *The Stones of Venice* (Norton selection)

Dickens, *Great Expectations*

Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, "The Hunting of the Snark"

Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Hopkins, "God's Grandeur," "Spring," "The Windhover," "Spring and Fall,"
"Pied Beauty," "No Worst, There Is None"

F. The Modern Period (1890-Present)

Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Shaw, *Arms and the Man*

Hardy, "Hap," "Neutral Tones," "The Darkling Thrush," "Channel Firing,"
"The Convergence of the Twain," "Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave,"
"During Wind and Rain," "He Never Expected Much"

Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est," "Strange Meeting," "Disabled"

Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "Adam's Curse," "September 1913," "The
Wild Swans at Coole," "Easter 1916," "The Second Coming," "A Prayer for
My Daughter," "Sailing to Byzantium," "Leda and the Swan," "Among School
Children," "Byzantium," "Lapis Lazuli," "The Circus Animals' Desertion"

Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, "The Secret Sharer"

Joyce, "Araby," "The Dead," *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Forster, *A Passage to India*

Lawrence, "The Rocking-Horse Winner," "Odour of Chrysanthemums," "The
Blind Man"; "Piano," "Bavarian Gentians," "Snake," "The Ship of Death"

Auden, "Musee des Beaux Arts," "Lullaby," "In Memory of W. B. Yeats," "In
Praise of Limestone," "The Shield of Achilles"

Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Thomas, "The Force That through the Green Fuse," "Fern Hill," "A Refusal to Mourn the Death," "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"

Larkin, "Church Going," "High Windows"

Hughes, "Pike," "Examination at the Womb-Door," "Theology"

Heaney, "Digging," "Punishment," "The Strand at Lough Beg"

Beckett, *Endgame*

Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

IV. American Literature

A. Colonial and Revolutionary Periods (1620-1820)

Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (selections from chapters I and II)

Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity"

Bradstreet, "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," three elegies for her grandchildren

Edwards, "Personal Narrative," "A Divine and Supernatural Light," "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

Crèvecoeur, "What Is an American?"

Franklin, *The Autobiography* Parts I and II

B. Romantic and Realistic Periods (1820-1900)

Irving, "Rip Van Winkle"

Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Black Cat"; "To Helen," "The Raven"; "The Philosophy of Composition"

Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, "Young Goodman Brown," "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," "The Birthmark," "The Minister's Black Veil"

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Emerson, *Nature*, "The American Scholar," "The Divinity School Address"

Thoreau, "Economy" (Part I) from *Walden*, "Civil Disobedience"

Longfellow, "The Arsenal at Springfield," "The Jewish Cemetery at Newport,"
"My Lost Youth"

Whitman, "Song of Myself," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd,"
"Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" from *Leaves of Grass*

Melville, *Billy Budd*, "Bartleby the Scrivener"; "The House-Top," "The
Maldive Shark"

Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*

Dickinson, poems #67, 214, 258, 303, 328, 341, 435, 449, 465, 585, 632, 657,
712, 764, 986, 1129, 1732

James, *Daisy Miller*, "The Beast in the Jungle"

Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*, "The Blue Hotel," "The Open Boat"

C. Twentieth Century

Wharton, *Ethan Frome*, "Roman Fever"

Frost, "After Apple-Picking," "Home Burial," "Birches," "Stopping by Woods
on a Snowy Evening," "Design," "Desert Places," "The Gift Outright,"
"Directive"

Pound, "Portrait d'une Femme," "The River Merchant's Wife," "In a Station
of the Metro"

Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," *The Waste Land*, "Tradition and
the Individual Talent"

Williams, "Tract," "The Widow's Lament in Springtime," "Spring and All,"
"The Red Wheelbarrow," "This Is Just to Say," "The Yachts," "Landscape with
the Fall of Icarus"

Stevens, "Sunday Morning," "Anecdote of the Jar," "The Snow Man," "A
High-Toned Old Christian Woman," "Of Modern Poetry," "The Emperor of Ice
Cream," "The Idea of Order at Key West"

Hughes, "Epilogue," "Harlem," "Theme for English B"

Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, "Babylon Revisited"

Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, "Hills Like White Elephants," "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"

Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*, "A Rose for Emily," "Barn Burning," "Spotted Horses"

Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

O' Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," "Good Country People," "Revelation"

Lowell, "Skunk Hour," "For the Union Dead"

Silko, *Ceremony*

Morrison, *Beloved*