

**MA Comprehensive Exam: Short List
Fall 2020**

Medieval

Old English Literature:

Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*: "Account of the Poet Cædmon" (w/ "Cædmon's Hymn")
 "The Dream of the Rood"
 "The Wanderer"

Middle English Literature:

Chaucer: "General Prologue "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"
 Julian of Norwich: *A Book of Showings (Revelations of Divine Love)* Long Text Chapters 1-11, 25-28, 50-63, 83-86 (Modernized version by Elizabeth and A. C. Spearing in the Penguin edition recommended.)
 Malory: *Morte Darthur*, Caxton Books XX, XXI
Everyman

Renaissance and Seventeenth Century

Sir Thomas Wyatt: "Whoso list to hunt," "They flee from me"
 Sir Philip Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella*, 1 ("Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show"), 6 ("Some lovers speak, when they their muses entertain"), 45 ("Stella oft sees the very face of woe"), 71 ("Who will in fairest book of Nature know"), 74 ("I never drank of Aganippe well"), 108 ("When Sorrow (using mine own fire's might)")
 Lady Mary Wroth: *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* 1 ("When night's black mantle could most darkness prove"), 16 ("Am I thus conquered? Have I lost the powers"), , 40 ("False hope which feeds but to destroy, and spill"), 68 ("My pain, still smothered in my grievèd breast"), 103 ("My muse now happy, lay thyself to rest")
 Christopher Marlowe: *Hero and Leander*
 William Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night*
 John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi*

Restoration and Eighteenth Century

John Dryden: "Mac Flecknoe"
 William Congreve: *The Way of the World*
 Alexander Pope: *The Rape of the Lock*
 Jonathan Swift: "A Modest Proposal," "A Description of the Morning," "A Description of a City Shower"
 John Gay: *The Beggar's Opera*
 Henry Fielding: *Tom Jones*
 Oliver Goldsmith: *She Stoops to Conquer*

Nineteenth-Century British

Mary Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman; Maria, or the Wrongs of Woman*

Lord Byron: *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, selections printed in the Norton anthology (8th edition); *Don Juan*, selections printed in the Norton anthology (8th edition)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Robert Browning: "My Last Duchess," "Andrea del Sarto," "Fra Lippo Lippi," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb," "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," "Abt Vogler"

Christina Rossetti: *Goblin Market*

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*

E.B. Browning: *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (21, 22, 32, 43), *Aurora Leigh*, selections printed in the Norton anthology

Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations*

Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Twentieth-Century British

Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot*

E. M. Forster: *A Passage to India*

Wilfred Owen: "Dulce et Decorum Est," "Strange Meeting," "Mental Cases," "Disabled"

Salman Rushdie: *The Satanic Verses*

Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King's Horseman*

Derek Walcott: "A Far Cry from Africa," "Laventille," "Ruins of a Great House," "North and South," "The Fortunate Traveller"

Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*

American to 1860

Anne Bradstreet: "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet," "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild" "On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet," "Prologue," "The Author to Her Book," "Contemplations"

Phillis Wheatley: "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To His Excellency General Washington," "To the University of Cambridge, in New England," "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth," "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield," Letter to Rev. Samson Occom (Feb. 11, 1774)

Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Harriet Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Walt Whitman: *Song of Myself*, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "The Wound Dresser"

American 1860 to present

Kate Chopin: *The Awakening*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: "The Yellow Wallpaper," "If I Were a Man"

Langston Hughes: "Theme for English B," "Epilogue (I, too, sing America)," "Harlem," "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," "Madam and the Phone Bill," "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"

Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man*

Toni Morrison: *The Bluest Eye*

Leslie Marmon Silko: *Ceremony*

W. E. B. Dubois: from *The Souls of Black Folk*: "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" and "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others"