

Graduate Exam Reading List

2008

Primary British

1. Beowulf
2. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
3. William Langland, Piers Plowman, The Prologue and Passus 6
4. Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe, The Prologue through Chapter 5
5. William Shakespeare, Othello
6. Aemilia Lanyer, "Eve's Apology and Defense of Women," "The Description of Cooke-ham"
7. Ben Jonson, "To Penshurst," "On My First Daughter," "On My First Son"
8. John Milton, Paradise Lost, Books 1 and 9
9. Aphra Behn, Oroonoko
10. William Wycherley, The Country Wife
11. John Gay, The Beggar's Opera
12. Fanny Burney, Evelina
13. William Blake, from Songs of Innocence: "The Ecchoing Green," "The Little Black Boy," and "The Chimney Sweeper"; from Songs of Experience: "The Chimney Sweeper," "The Garden of Love," and "London"
14. Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice
15. Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South
16. Charles Dickens, Great Expectations
17. Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
18. Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest
19. William Butler Yeats, "Sailing to Byzantium," "Circus Animals Desertion," "Adam's Curse"
20. James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
21. Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway
22. Tom Stoppard, Travesties
23. Caryl Churchill, Top Girls

Primary American

1. Mary Rowlandson, A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson
2. Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
3. Walt Whitman, Song of Myself
4. Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno"
5. Emily Dickinson, "What Soft--Cherubic Creatures--," "She rose to His Requirement--dropt," "The Bible is an antique volume--," "Some keep the Sabbath going to church--," "I started Early--Took my Dog-," "I taste a liquor never brewed--," "The last Night that She lived," "I heard a Fly buzz--when I died"
6. Mark Twain, The Mysterious Stranger
7. Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady
8. Kate Chopin, The Awakening
9. Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie
10. T. S. Eliot, The Wasteland
11. William Faulkner, Light in August

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12. Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish,” “Filling Station,” “Squatter’s Children”
13. Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
14. Edward Albee, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
15. Marilynne Robinson, Housekeeping
16. August Wilson, The Piano Lesson
17. Chang-Rae Lee, Native Speaker

Theoretical Works

1. Terry Eagleton, Literary Theory, Chapter 1 “The Rise of English”
2. Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish, Chapters “The body of the condemned” and “Panopticism”
3. William Dean Howells, “Novel-writing and Novel Reading: An Impersonal Explanation”
4. Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”
5. Edward W. Said, Introduction to Orientalism
6. Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman