

Orals List---American to 1855 (approved 2004)

1. Selections from the exploration narratives of Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Bartolomé de Las Casas, Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Pedro de Castañeda, Samuel de Champlain and Pierre-Esprit Radisson. [excerpted in Early American Writing, Oxford UP, 2002]
2. William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation (1620-1647)
 - “A Word to New England”
 - “Of Boston in New England”
 - “Epitaphium Meum”
3. John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity”
The Journal (1630-49) [Abridged]
4. Roger Williams, A Key Into the Language of America
 - “The Bloody Tenant of Persecution”
 - “Letter to the Town of Providence” [all excerpted in the Norton Anthology of American Literature 6th ed.vol. A]
5. Anne Bradstreet, “The Prologue”
 - “A Dialogue between Old England and New”
 - “In Honor of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth”
 - “To the Memory of My Dear Father Thomas Dudley”
 - “To Her Father with Some Verses”
 - “Contemplations”
 - “The Author to Her Book”
 - “Before the Birth of One of Her Children”
 - “To My Dear and Loving Husband”
 - “In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet”
 - “In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Anne Bradstreet”
 - “On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet”
 - “Upon the Burning of Our House”
 - “As Weary Pilgrim”
6. Michael Wigglesworth, “God’s Controversy with New England”
The Day of Doom
7. Edward Taylor, from Preparatory Meditations:
 - _ First Series: Prologue, Meditation 1, 8, 16, 22, 29, 32, 42
 - _ Second Series: Meditation 1, 3, 26, 150

From God's Determinations:

- _ "The Preface"
- _ "The Soul's Groan to Christ for Succor"
- _ "Christ's Reply"
- _ "The Joy of Church Fellowship Rightly Attended"

Miscellaneous Verses:

- "Upon a Spider Catching a Fly"
- "Huswifery"
- "Upon Wedlock, and Death of Children"
- "A Fig for Thee, Oh! Death!"
- "A Funerall Poem upon the Death of My [...] Tender Wife"

8. Mary Rowlandson, A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration

9. Cotton Mather, The Wonders of the Invisible World [excerpted in Norton]

Pillars of Salt

From Magnalia Christi Americana:

- _ "Galeacius Secundus: The Life of William Bradford"
- _ "Nehemias Americanus: The Life of John Winthrop"
- "Of Poetry and Style"

10. Sarah Kemble Knight, The Journal

11. Jonathan Edwards, Personal Narrative

- "On Sarah Pierpont"
- "A Divine and Supernatural Light"
- Letters to Rev. Dr. Benjamin Coleman: May 30, 1735; June 3, 1735
- "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
- "Images and Shodows of Divine Things" [excerpted in Norton]

12. Briton Hammon, Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings and Surprising Deliverance

13. Samson Occom, A Short Narrative of My Life

14. Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography

15. Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence"

Notes on the State of Virginia, Queries 6, 11, 14, 17, 18 [excerpted in
Early American Writing, Oxford UP, 2002]

16. Phyllis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America"

- "To Mæcenas"
- "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth"

- “On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield”
 “To S.M. A Young African Painted, on Seeing His Works”
 “To His Excellency General Washington”
17. Royall Tyler, The Contrast
18. J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer [excerpted in Norton]
19. Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life
20. Philip Freneau, “On the Emigration to America and Peopling the Western Country”
 “The Wild Honey Suckle”
 “The Indian Burying Ground”
 “The Prophecy of King Tammany”
 “The Island Field Negro”
 “The Religion of Nature”
 “To a New England Poet”
21. Sarah Wentworth Morton, “The African Chief”
 “Ode for Music: Inscribed to George Washington”
 “Lines: To the Mansion of My Ancestors”
 “Memento: For My Infant”
 “Lines: Enclosing the Beautiful Ringlets of My Son”
22. William Hill Brown, The Power of Sympathy
23. Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple
24. Hannah Webster Foster, The Coquette
25. Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland
26. Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle”
 “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
27. Lydia Maria Child, Hobomok
28. James Fenimore Cooper, The Last of the Mohicans
29. Catherine Marie Sedgwick, Hope Leslie
30. Nathaniel Hawthorne, “My Kinsman Major Molineux”
 “Young Goodman Brown”
 “The Birth-Mark”
 “The Celestial Railroad”
 “Roger Malvin’s Burial”
The Scarlet Letter
31. Edgar Allan Poe, “Sonnet-To Science”

- “To Helen”
- “The Raven”
- “Annabel Lee”
- “Ligeia”
- “The Fall of the House of Usher”
- “William Wilson. A Tale”
- “The Purloined Letter”
32. Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The American Scholar”
- “The Divinity School Address”
- “Self-Reliance”
- “Thoreau”
- “Each and All”
- “Uriel”
33. Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
34. Margaret Fuller, Woman in the Nineteenth Century
35. Susan Warner, The Wide, Wide World
36. Herman Melville, “Hawthorne and His Mosses”
- “Bartleby, the Scrivener”
- “The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids”
- “Benito Cereno”
- “The Portent”
- “The March into Virginia”
- “Shiloh: A Requiem”
- “Billy Budd, Sailor”
37. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom’s Cabin
38. Henry David Thoreau “Civil Disobedience”
- Walden
39. Fanny Fern, Ruth Hall
40. Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass (1855)
- “Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night”
- “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking”
- “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
41. E.D.E.N. Southworth, The Hidden Hand
42. Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself

Secondary Reading

1. Ivy Schweitzer, The Work of Self-Representation, Lyric Poetry in Colonial New England.
2. From, Robert Blair St. George Ed. Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America:
“Introduction”;
Peter Hulme, “Postcolonial Theory and Early America: An Approach from the Caribbean”;
Michael Warner, “What’s Colonial about Colonial America?”;
David D. Hall, “From ‘Religion and Society’ to Practices: The New Religious History”;
Dana D. Nelson, “Consolidating National Masculinity: Scientific Discourses in the Post-Revolutionary United States”;
Susan Juster, “‘Neither male nor female’: Jemima Wilkinson and the Politics of Gender in Post-Revolutionary America”.
3. Jon Butler, Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776.
4. Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities.
5. Julia Stern, The Plight of Feeling.
6. Joseph Roach, Cities of the Dead.
7. William L. Andrews, To Tell A Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865.