Orals List—American to 1855 (approved 2004)

1. Selections from the exploration narratives of Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Bartolomé de Las Casas, Álvar 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”

   The Journal (1630-49) [Abridged]

4. Roger Williams, A Key Into the Language of America
   “The Bloody Tenant of Persecution”

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”

   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*

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*
_“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*
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]*

_“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”

   “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”


23. Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple

24. Hannah Webster Foster, The Coquette

25. Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland

   “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

   “Young Goodman Brown”
   “The Birth-Mark”
   “The Celestial Railroad”
   “Roger Malvin’s Burial”
   The Scarlet Letter

“To Helen”
“The Raven”
“Annabel Lee”
“Ligeia”
“The Fall of the House of Usher”
“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

   - Peter Hulme, “Postcolonial Theory and Early America: An Approach from the Caribbean”;
   - Michael Warner, “What’s Colonial about Colonial America?”;
   - Susan Juster, “‘Neither male nor female’: Jemima Wilkinson and the Politics of Gender in Post-Revolutionary America”.