

Poetry and Poetics

Poetry

Poets Selected for Extended Analysis

- Pre-1600: Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) and Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586)
- 1600-1800: John Donne (1572-1631) and Alexander Pope (1688-1744)
- 1800-1900: John Keats (1795-1821) and Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
- 1900-2013: Langston Hughes (1902-1967) and Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979)

Historical and Generic Distribution (thirty poems encompassing the following genres: ballad, drama, elegy, epic, epigram, epistle, ode, and sonnet)

1. Homer, *The Odyssey* (8th century B.C.E.) (epic)
2. Horace, *Odes* (III.2.13) (23 B.C.E.) (“Dulce et decorum”) (ode)
3. Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Books I, XV (8 B.C.E.) (epic)
4. *Beowulf* (8th century) (epic)
5. Francis Petrarch, “It was the morning of that blessed day” (14th century) (sonnet)
6. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, “The Miller’s Tale” (1386-1400) (narrative poetry)
7. Sir Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso list to hunt” (early-mid 1500s) (sonnet)
8. Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” (1600) (idyll)
9. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (circa 1602) (verse drama)
10. Ben Jonson, “To John Donne” (1616) (epigram)
11. John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books I, IX, X, and XII (1674) (epic)
12. Anne Bradstreet, “To My Dear and Loving Husband” (1678) (epistle)
13. John Dryden, “Epigram on Milton” (1688) (epigram)
14. Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (1751) (elegy)
15. Robert Burns, “Holy Willie’s Prayer” (1795) (dramatic monologue, satire)
16. William Wordsworth, *Ode: Intimations of Immortality* (1807) (ode)
17. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1817) (ballad)
18. Lord Byron, *Don Juan*, Cantos I, II, and XVI (1821) (mock epic)
19. Alfred Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam, A.H.H.* (1850) (elegy)
20. Robert Browning, “Fra Lippo Lippi” (1855) (dramatic monologue)
21. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, Books 1, 2, and 5 (1857) (epic novel)
22. Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself* (1881) (lyric)
23. Ezra Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley* (1921) (ode)
24. T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922) (lyric/epic) (cross-listed on twentieth-century list)
25. Claude McKay, “The Harlem Dancer” (1922) (sonnet)
26. W. B. Yeats, “Easter, 1916” (1922) (elegy)
27. W. H. Auden, “September 1, 1939” (1940) (lyric)
28. Allen Ginsberg, *Howl* (1956) (lyric)
29. Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (1990) (epic)
30. Jorie Graham, “Fission” (1991) (lyric)

Poetics

Primary Texts to 1945

1. Aristotle, *The Poetics*, Parts I-IX (circa 335 B.C.E.)
2. Horace, *Ars Poetica* (22-18 B.C.E.)
3. Bede, *De Schematibus et Tropis* (circa 701)
4. Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria Nova* (1208-1213)
5. John Milton, Preface to *Paradise Lost* (1674)
6. Samuel Johnson, from *Preface to Shakespeare* (1765) and from *Lives of the Poets* (1779) (“Thomas Gray” and “John Milton”)
7. William Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)
8. Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Circles” (1841) and “The Poet” (1844)
9. Edgar Allan Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition” (1846) and “The Poetic Principle” (1850)
10. Walt Whitman, Preface to *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
11. Oscar Wilde, “The Critic as Artist” (1891)
12. W. B. Yeats, “The Symbolism of Poetry” (1900)
13. T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” (1919), “Hamlet and his Problems” (1919), and “The Metaphysical Poets” (1921)
14. James Weldon Johnson, Preface to *The American Book of Negro Poetry* (1922)
15. Cleanth Brooks and Austin Warren, *Understanding Poetry* (1938)

Primary Texts Post-1945

1. Amiri Baraka, “The Myth of a ‘Negro Literature’” (1963)
2. Adrienne Rich, “When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision” (1971)
3. Seamus Heaney, “Feelings into Words” (1979)
4. Louise Bennett, “Jamaica Language” (1979-1981)
5. Derek Walcott, “The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory” (1992)

Secondary Texts

1. *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* entries:
 - a. Mandatory entries: Poem, Poet, Poetry, Classical Poetics, Medieval Poetics, Poetics (Western), Renaissance Poetics, Neoclassical Poetics, Preromanticism, Romantic and Postromantic Poetry and Poetics, Modernism, Postmodernism, Postcolonial Poetics, and Avant-Garde Poetics.
 - b. Other entries: Harlem Renaissance, Gender and Poetry, Cultural Studies and Poetry, Politics and Poetry.
2. Additional selections:
 - a. George Saintsbury, *History of English Prosody* (2013 reissue, interchapters)
 - b. Helen Vendler, Introduction to *Soul Says* (1996)
 - c. Stephen Adams, *Poetic Designs* (1997)
 - d. Angela Leighton, *On Form* (2007)
 - e. Jahan Ramazani, *A Transnational Poetics* (2009)