

Ph.D. Comps Lists

American Literature since 1865

1865-1900: Realisms in Fiction and Poetry

1. Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Majors and Minors* (1895)
2. Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (1868-69)
3. Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881)
4. Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
5. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)
6. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Iola Leroy* (1892)
7. Charles Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899)
8. Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899)
9. Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)

1900-1950: Modernisms

10. W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)
11. Willa Cather, *My Ántonia* (1918)
12. Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1923)
13. Ernest Hemingway, "Big Two-Hearted River" (1923)
14. Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929)
15. F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
16. William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (1929)

17. T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922)
18. Claude McKay, *Harlem Shadows* (1922)
19. Robert Frost, *Mountain Interval* (1916)
20. Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues* (1926)

Great Depression/WWII

21. Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (1936)
22. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
23. John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)
24. Richard Wright, *Native Son* (1940)

1950-2000 Postwar to Postmodernism

25. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
26. James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (1953)
27. Flannery O'Connor, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* (1955)
28. Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1967)
29. Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)

30. Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior* (1976)
31. Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)
32. Alice Walker, *The Color Purple* (1982)
33. Raymond Carver, *Cathedral* (1983)
34. Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian* (1985)
35. Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)
36. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands* (1987)
37. Sherman Alexie, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993)

38. Elizabeth Bishop, selected poems
39. Gwendolyn Brooks, *Annie Allen* (1949)
40. Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems* (1956)
41. Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (1965)
42. Adrienne Rich, *Poems: Selected and New* (1975)
43. Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982)
44. Amiri Baraka, *Wise Why's Y's* (1995)

2000-2020: Contemporaries

45. Salvador Plascencia, *People of Paper* (2005)
46. Jualiana Spahr, *The Transformation* (2007)
47. Teju Cole, *Open City* (2011)
48. Jennifer Egan, *A Visit From the Goon Squad* (2011)
49. Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric* (2014)
50. Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (2018)