



Contents



PREFACE

xxiv

The Emergence of Modern American Literature

NEW VOICES IN POETRY

WALT WHITMAN (1819–1892)	11
Preface to the 1855 Edition of Leaves of Grass	14
Song of Myself	27
CHILDREN OF ADAM	
Out of the Rolling Ocean the Crowd	63
Once I Pass'd through a Populous City	64
Facing West from California's Shores	64
As Adam Early in the Morning	64
CALAMUS	
For You O Democracy	65
I Saw in Louisiana a Live-oak Growing	65
I Hear It Was Charged against Me	65
Crossing Brooklyn Ferry	66
Song of the Redwood-Tree	69
SEA-DRIFT	
Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking	72
As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life	77
To the Man-of-War-Bird	79
BY THE ROADSIDE	
Gods	79
When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer	80
The Dalliance of the Eagles	80
DRUM-TAPS	
Beat! Beat! Drums!	80
Cavalry Crossing a Ford	81
Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night	81

A March in the Ranks Hard-Prest, and the Road Unknown	82
A Sight in Camp in the Daybreak Gray and Dim	82
The Wound-Dresser	83
Look Down Fair Moon	85
Reconciliation	85
MEMORIES OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN	
When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd	85
AUTUMN RIVULETS	
There Was a Child Went Forth	91
This Compost	92
To a Common Prostitute	93
Passage to India	93
Prayer of Columbus	100
The Sleepers	101
WHISPERS OF HEAVENLY DEATH	
Darest Thou Now O Soul	107
Whispers of Heavenly Death	107
Chanting the Square Deific	108
A Noiseless Patient Spider	109
FROM NOON TO STARRY NIGHT	
To a Locomotive in Winter	109
By Broad Potomac's Shore	110
SONGS OF PARTING	
Joy, Shipmate, Joy!	110
So Long!	111
SECOND ANNEX: GOOD-BYE MY FANCY	
Good-bye My Fancy!	113
Democratic Vistas	113
Specimen Days	
After First Fredericksburg	122
Patent-Office Hospital	122
The White House by Moonlight	123
The Wounded from Chancellorsville	123
Unnamed Remains the Bravest Soldier	124
Abraham Lincoln	124
Virginia	125
Summer of 1864	125
The Inauguration	126
Death of President Lincoln	126
No Good Portrait of Lincoln	127
Three Years Summ'd Up	127

The Million Dead, Too, Summ'd Up	127
Entering a Long Farm-Lane	128
To the Spring and Brook	129
EMILY DICKINSON (1830–1886)	129
49 [I never lost as much but twice]	131
67 [Success is counted sweetest]	131
130 [These are the days when Birds come back—]	131
214 [I taste a liquor never brewed—]	131
241 [I like a look of Agony]	132
249 [Wild Nights—Wild Nights!]	132
252 [I can wade Grief—]	132
258 [There's a certain Slant of light]	132
280 [I felt a Funeral, in my Brain]	132
285 [The Robin's my Criterion for Tune—]	133
288 [I'm Nobody! Who are you?]	133
290 [Of Bronze—and Blaze—]	133
303 [The Soul selects her own Society—]	133
320 [We play at Paste—]	133
322 [There came a Day at Summer's full]	134
324 [Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—]	134
328 [A Bird came down the Walk—]	134
341 [After great pain, a formal feeling comes—]	134
376 [Of Course—I prayed—]	135
401 [What Soft—Cherubic Creatures—]	135
435 [Much Madness is divinest Sense—]	135
441 [This is my letter to the World]	135
448 [This was a Poet—It is That]	135
449 [I died for Beauty—but was scarce]	135
465 [I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—]	136
478 [I had no time to Hate—]	136
511 [If you were coming in the Fall]	136
526 [To hear an Oriole sing]	136
528 [Mine—by the Right of the White Election!]	136
547 [I've seen a Dying Eye]	137
556 [The Brain, within its Groove]	137
569 [I reckon—when I count at all—]	137
579 [I had been hungry, all the Years—]	137
581 [I found the words to every thought]	137
585 [I like to see it lap the Miles—]	138
632 [The Brain—is wider than the Sky—]	138
636 [The Way I read a Letter's—this—]	138
640 [I cannot live with You—]	138
650 [Pain—has an Element of Blank—]	139
657 [I dwell in Possibility—]	139
701 [A Thought went up my mind today—]	139
712 [Because I could not stop for Death—]	139

732 [She rose to His Requirement—dropt]	139
754 [My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—]	140
816 [A Death blow is a Life blow to Some]	140
823 [Not what We did, shall be the test]	140
986 [A narrow Fellow in the Grass]	140
1052 [I never saw a Moor—]	140
1078 [The Bustle in a House]	141
1082 [Revolution is the Pod]	141
1100 [The last Night that She lived]	141
1129 [Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—]	141
1176 [We never know how high we are]	141
1207 [He preached upon “Breadth” till it argued him narrow—]	141
1263 [There is no Frigate like a Book]	142
1304 [Not with a Club, the Heart is broken]	142
1332 [Pink—small—and punctual—]	142
1463 [A Route of Evanescence]	142
1465 [Before you thought of Spring]	142
1510 [How happy is the little Stone]	142
1540 [As imperceptibly as Grief]	143
1587 [He ate and drank the precious Words—]	143
1624 [Apparently with no surprise]	143
1670 [In Winter in my Room]	143
1732 [My life closed twice before its close—]	144
1760 [Elysium is as far as to]	144
Letters	
[To Recipient Unknown, about 1858]	144
[To Recipient Unknown, about 1861]	144
[To Recipient Unknown, early 1862?]	146
[To T. W. Higginson] 15 April 1862	146
[To T. W. Higginson] 25 April 1862	147
[To T. W. Higginson] 7 June 1862	148
[To T. W. Higginson, July 1862]	149
[To T. W. Higginson, August 1862]	149
SIDNEY LANIER (1842–1881)	150
The Symphony	151
The Stirrup-Cup	159
The Marshes of Glynn	159
REALISTS AND REGIONALISTS	
MARK TWAIN (1835–1910)	162
The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County	164
Roughing It	
[When the Buffalo Climbed a Tree]	168
Life on the Mississippi	
Frescoes from the Past	171

The Boys' Ambition	178
[A Mississippi Cub-Pilot]	181
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	188
The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg	361
Letters from the Earth	
Letter II: Satan to Michael and Gabriel	392
WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS (1837–1920)	394
Criticism and Fiction	
Chapter II [The True Standard of the Arts]	396
Chapter XIII [How Can an Art Decay?]	399
Chapter XXI [American and Old World Novelists]	400
Chapter XXIV [The Prudishness of the Anglo-Saxon Novel]	401
Editha	404
HENRY JAMES (1843–1916)	414
Daisy Miller	416
The Real Thing	456
The Turn of the Screw	473
The Beast in the Jungle	541
The Jolly Corner	570
The Art of Fiction	592
BRET HARTE (1836–1902)	606
The Society upon the Stanislaus	607
Plain Language from Truthful James	608
The Outcasts of Poker Flat	609
AMBROSE BIERCE (1842–1914?)	616
The Boarded Window	617
GEORGE WASHINGTON CABLE (1844–1925)	620
Belles Demoiselles Plantation	621
JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS (1848–1908)	632
The Wonderful Tar-Baby Story	633
Mr. Rabbit Finds His Match at Last	634
THE TURN OF THE CENTURY: 1890–1910	
HENRY ADAMS (1838–1918)	637
The Dynamo and the Virgin	639
SARAH ORNE JEWETT (1849–1909)	646
A White Heron	648

KATE CHOPIN (1851–1904)	654
The Awakening	655
MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN (1852–1930)	742
The Revolt of “Mother”	743
CHARLES W. CHESNUTT (1858–1932)	754
The Passing of Grandison	755
HAMLIN GARLAND (1860–1940)	766
Under the Lion’s Paw	767
EDITH WHARTON (1862–1937)	777
Roman Fever	779
STEPHEN CRANE (1871–1900)	787
A God in Wrath	789
Once I Saw Mountains Angry	790
A Man Saw a Ball of Gold in the Sky	790
God Lay Dead in Heaven	790
Do Not Weep, Maiden, For War Is Kind	791
The Wayfarer	791
A Man Said to the Universe	792
The Trees in the Garden Rained Flowers	792
Maggie: A Girl of the Streets	793
The Open Boat	834
The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky	850
THEODORE DREISER (1871–1945)	857
The Second Choice	859
JACK LONDON (1876–1916)	872
To Build a Fire	873

The Twentieth Century:
Literary Renaissance and Social Challenge

NEW DIRECTIONS: THE EARLIER GENERATION

EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON (1869–1935)	891
Luke Havergal	893
The House on the Hill	894
The Clerks	894
Richard Cory	895

Aunt Imogen	895
Miniver Cheevy	898
Leonora	899
Bewick Finzer	899
Eros Turannos	900
Mr. Flood's Party	901
The Mill	902
Firelight	903
The Tree in Pamela's Garden	903
New England	904
EDGAR LEE MASTERS (1868–1950)	904
Petit, the Poet	905
Elsa Wertman	905
Hamilton Greene	906
Carl Hamblin	906
Lucinda Matlock	907
Davis Matlock	907
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872–1906)	908
We Wear the Mask	909
A Death Song	909
Life's Tragedy	909
At the Tavern	910
Sympathy	910
WILLA CATHER (1873–1947)	911
Neighbour Rosicky	913
GERTRUDE STEIN (1874–1946)	932
The Gentle Lena	933
ROBERT FROST (1874–1963)	953
The Tuft of Flowers	955
Mending Wall	956
The Death of the Hired Man	957
Home Burial	961
After Apple-Picking	963
The Wood-Pile	964
The Road Not Taken	965
The Oven Bird	966
Birches	966
The Hill Wife	967
The Ax-Helve	969
The Grindstone	971
The Witch of Coös	973

Fire and Ice	976
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening	976
Two Tramps in Mud Time	977
Desert Places	978
Design	979
Come In	979
Directive	979
CARL SANDBURG (1878–1967)	981
Fog	983
Nocturne in a Deserted Brickyard	983
Monotone	983
Gone	983
A Fence	984
Grass	984
Southern Pacific	985
Washerwoman	985
SHERWOOD ANDERSON (1876–1941)	985
The Book of the Grotesque	987
Adventure	989
Death in the Woods	993
EZRA POUND (1885–1972)	1001
Portrait d'une Femme	1003
The Seafarer	1004
A Virginal	1006
The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter	1006
A Pact	1007
In a Station of the Metro	1008
Hugh Selwyn Mauberley	1008
The Cantos	
I "And then went down to the ship"	1016
XIII "Kung walked"	1018
LXXXI "What thou lovest well remains"	1020
CXVI "Came Neptunus"	1021
T. S. ELIOT (1888–1965)	1023
Tradition and the Individual Talent	1026
The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock	1032
Gerontion	1035
The Waste Land	1038
The Hollow Men	1052
Four Quartets	
Little Gidding	1055

AMY LOWELL (1874–1925)	1061
Patterns	1062
A Decade	1064
Meeting-House Hill	1065
ELINOR WYLIE (1885–1928)	1065
Wild Peaches	1066
Sanctuary	1067
Prophecy	1068
Let No Charitable Hope	1068
O Virtuous Light	1068
H. D. (HILDA DOOLITTLE) (1886–1961)	1069
Heat	1070
Heliadora	1070
Lethe	1073
Sigil	1073
ROBINSON JEFFERS (1887–1962)	1074
To the Stone-Cutters	1076
Roan Stallion	1076
Boats in a Fog	1087
Shine, Perishing Republic	1088
The Purse-Seine	1088
EUGENE O'NEILL (1888–1953)	1089
The Hairy Ape	1092
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH (1892–1982)	1121
Ars Poetica	1122
You, Andrew Marvell	1123
Immortal Autumn	1124
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892–1950)	1124
First Fig	1125
I Shall Go Back Again to the Bleak Shore	1125
What Lips My Lips Have Kissed, and Where, and Why	1126
She Had a Horror He Would Die at Night	1126
Justice Denied in Massachusetts	1127
This Beast That Rends Me in the Sight of All	1127
Since of No Creature Living the Last Breath	1128
Love Is Not All: It Is Not Meat Nor Drink	1128
Even in the Moment of Our Earliest Kiss	1128
Those Hours When Happy Hours Were My Estate	1129
I Will Put Chaos into Fourteen Lines	1129

E. E. CUMMINGS (1894–1962)	1130
Thy Fingers Make Early Flowers Of	1131
When God Lets My Body Be	1131
In Just-	1132
Buffalo Bill's	1133
O Thou to Whom the Musical White Spring	1133
My Sweet Old Etcetera	1133
I Sing of Olaf Glad and Big	1134
If There Are Any Heavens	1135
Somewhere I Have Never Travelled, Gladly Beyond	1135
Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town	1136
My Father Moved through Dooms of Love	1137
Up into the Silence the Green	1139
Plato Told	1139
When Serpents Bargain for the Right to Squirm	1140
I Thank You God	1140
JEAN TOOMER (1894–1967)	1141
Karintha	1142
Reapers	1143
November Cotton Flower	1143
COUNTEE CULLEN (1903–1946)	1144
Yet Do I Marvel	1144
Heritage (For Harold Jackman)	1145
EPITAPHS	
For My Grandmother	1147
For a Lady I Know	1147
Only the Polished Skeleton	1148
NEW DIRECTIONS: LATER VOICES	
KATHERINE ANNE PORTER (1890–1980)	1149
The Jilting of Granny Weatherall	1150
F. SCOTT FITZGERALD (1896–1940)	1156
Babylon Revisited	1158
JOHN DOS PASSOS (1896–1970)	1172
U.S.A.—The 42nd Parallel	
Big Bill	1173
Proteus	1175
U.S.A.—1919	
The House of Morgan	1177
The Body of an American	1180

U.S.A.—The Big Money	1184
Newsreel LXVI	1185
The Camera Eye (50)	1186
Vag	
WILLIAM FAULKNER (1897–1962)	1187
Spotted Horses	1190
That Evening Sun	1202
Barn Burning	1214
ERNEST HEMINGWAY (1899–1961)	1225
Big Two-Hearted River: Parts I & II	1227
THOMAS WOLFE (1900–1938)	1239
An Angel on the Porch	1241
JOHN STEINBECK (1902–1968)	1247
The Chrysanthemums	1248
WALLACE STEVENS (1879–1955)	1255
Peter Quince at the Clavier	1257
Disillusionment of Ten O’Clock	1259
Sunday Morning	1259
Depression before Spring	1262
Ploughing on Sunday	1262
Anecdote of the Jar	1263
The Snow Man	1263
Bantams in Pine-Woods	1264
A High-Toned Old Christian Woman	1264
The Emperor of Ice-Cream	1265
To the One of Fictive Music	1265
How to Live. What to Do.	1266
The Idea of Order at Key West	1267
A Postcard from the Volcano	1268
A Rabbit as King of the Ghosts	1269
Of Modern Poetry	1269
No Possum, No Sop, No Taters	1270
The Plain Sense of Things	1271
Not Ideas about the Thing but the Thing Itself	1271
Of Mere Being	1272
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS (1883–1963)	1272
The Young Housewife	1274
Tract	1274
To Mark Anthony in Heaven	1276
Portrait of a Lady	1276

Queen-Anne's-Lace	1277
The Great Figure	1277
The Bull	1278
Spring and All	1278
The Red Wheelbarrow	1279
This Is Just to Say	1279
The Yachts	1280
A Sort of a Song	1281
The Dance	1281
Raleigh Was Right	1281
Paterson, Book II	
Sunday in the Park	1282
The Pause	1287
The Ivy Crown	1287
The Sparrow	1289
MARIANNE MOORE (1887–1972)	1291
Poetry	1292
In the Days of Prismatic Color	1293
An Egyptian Pulled Glass Bottle in the Shape of a Fish	1294
No Swan So Fine	1295
The Frigate Pelican	1295
The Pangolin	1296
The Mind Is an Enchanting Thing	1299
In Distrust of Merits	1300
A Jelly-Fish	1302
JOHN CROWE RANSOM (1888–1974)	1302
Winter Remembered	1303
Bells for John Whiteside's Daughter	1303
Blue Girls	1304
Antique Harvesters	1304
The Equilibrists	1306
ALLEN TATE (1899–1979)	1307
Ode to the Confederate Dead	1308
The Swimmers	1310
HART CRANE (1899–1932)	1313
At Melville's Tomb	1314
Voyages: I	1315
Voyages: II	1315
Royal Palm	1316
The Bridge	
To Brooklyn Bridge	1316
Van Winkle	1317

The River	1319
Indiana	1322
The Tunnel	1324
LANGSTON HUGHES (1902–1967)	1327
The Negro Speaks of Rivers	1328
The Weary Blues	1328
Song for a Dark Girl	1329
Trumpet Player	1329
MONTAGE OF A DREAM DEFERRED	
Dream Boogie	1330
Motto	1331
Green Memory	1331
Harlem	1331
Feet Live Their Own Life	1332
RICHARD WRIGHT (1908–1960)	1334
Black Boy	
[A Five Dollar Fight]	1335
After the Second World War	
DRAMA AT MID-CENTURY	
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (1911–1983)	1351
The Glass Menagerie	1352
ARTHUR MILLER (1915–)	1397
Death of a Salesman	1398
POETRY AT MID-CENTURY	
ROBERT PENN WARREN (1905–1989)	1462
History among the Rocks	1463
Founding Fathers, Nineteenth-Century Style, Southeast U.S.A.	1464
Blow, West Wind	1465
THEODORE ROETHKE (1908–1963)	1465
Open House	1467
Cuttings (<i>later</i>)	1467
My Papa's Waltz	1468
Night Crow	1468
Elegy for Jane	1468
The Waking	1469

I Knew a Woman	1470
The Far Field	1470
Wish for a Young Wife	1472
The Pike	1473
In a Dark Time	1473
ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)	1474
The Fish	1475
At the Fishhouses	1476
Questions of Travel	1478
The Armadillo	1479
Sestina	1480
In the Waiting Room	1481
The Moose	1483
One Art	1487
North Haven	1487
RANDALL JARRELL (1914–1965)	1488
The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner	1489
Losses	1489
The Woman at the Washington Zoo	1490
The Lost Children	1491
JOHN BERRYMAN (1914–1972)	1492
The Dream Songs	
1: “Huffy Henry hid the day”	1493
4: “Filling her compact & delicious body”	1494
14: “Life, friends, is boring. We must not say so.”	1494
29: “There sat down, once, a thing on Henry’s heart”	1495
76: Henry’s Confession	1495
145: “Also I love him: me he’s done no wrong”	1496
153: “I’m cross with god who has wrecked this generation.”	1496
384: “The marker slants, flowerless, day’s almost done”	1497
385: “My daughter’s heavier. Light leaves are flying.”	1497
WILLIAM STAFFORD (1914–1993)	1498
Before the Big Storm	1499
Judgments	1499
One Home	1500
The Farm on the Great Plains	1500
Things That Happen Where There Aren’t Any People	1501
GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917–)	1502
a song in the front yard	1503
The Bean Eaters	1503
We Real Cool	1503

The Lovers of the Poor	1504
Horses Graze	1506
ROBERT LOWELL (1917–1977)	1506
In Memory of Arthur Winslow	1508
After the Surprising Conversions	1511
Her Dead Brother	1512
Sailing Home from Rapallo	1514
Waking in the Blue	1515
Skunk Hour	1516
The Neo-Classical Urn	1517
For the Union Dead	1518
For Theodore Roethke	1520
Reading Myself	1520
Obit	1521
Flight	1521
Epilogue	1521
RICHARD WILBUR (1921–)	1522
The Beautiful Changes	1523
Museum Piece	1524
The Death of a Toad	1524
Exeunt	1525
Running	1525
MID-CENTURY PROSE	
VLADIMIR NABOKOV (1899–1977)	1528
Pnin	1529
[Pnin at the Pines]	1529
ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER (1904–1991)	1541
Gimpel the Fool	1543
EUDORA WELTY (1909–)	1552
A Memory	1553
JOHN CHEEVER (1912–1982)	1557
The Swimmer	1558
RALPH ELLISON (1914–)	1565
Invisible Man	
Chapter I [Battle Royal]	1566

BERNARD MALAMUD (1914–1986)	1576
The Mourners	1577
SAUL BELLOW (1915–)	1582
A Silver Dish	1583
PETER TAYLOR (1917–)	1601
Porte Cochere	1602
JAMES BALDWIN (1924–1987)	1608
Sonny's Blues	1609
FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925–1964)	1630
Good Country People	1631

THE LATER TWENTIETH CENTURY: POETRY

HOWARD NEMEROV (1920–1991)	1645
The Sanctuary	1646
The Goose Fish	1646
The Vacuum	1647
Figures of Thought	1648
DENISE LEVERTOV (1923–)	1648
The Third Dimension	1649
To the Snake	1650
The Room	1650
The Willows of Massachusetts	1651
Olga Poems	
i: "By the gas-fire, kneeling"	1651
ii: "The high pitch of"	1652
vi: "Your eyes were the brown gold of pebbles under water."	1652
Living	1653
The 90th Year	1653
JAMES DICKEY (1923–)	1654
The Lifeguard	1656
Cherrylog Road	1657
The Shark's Parlor	1659
A. R. AMMONS (1926–)	1661
Corsons Inlet	1662
The Wide Land	1665
Cascadilla Falls	1665
Poetics	1666

Easter Morning	1667
Extrication	1669
I Could Not Be Here At All	1669
ROBERT BLY (1926–)	1670
Driving Toward the Lac Qui Parle River	1671
Driving to Town Late to Mail a Letter	1671
Watering the Horse	1671
The Executive's Death	1672
Looking at New-Fallen Snow from a Train	1672
Snowbanks North of the House	1672
ALLEN GINSBERG (1926–)	1673
A Supermarket in California	1674
Howl	1674
America	1680
JAMES MERRILL (1926–)	1682
A Timepiece	1683
Charles on Fire	1684
The Broken Home	1684
Yánnina	1687
Samos	1690
FRANK O'HARA (1926–1966)	1692
A Step Away from Them	1693
Why I Am Not a Painter	1694
A True Account of Talking to the Sun at Fire Island	1695
The Day Lady Died	1697
Steps	1697
Ave Maria	1698
W. D. SNODGRASS (1926–)	1699
April Inventory	1700
Heart's Needle 6	1701
The Examination	1703
JOHN ASHBERY (1927–)	1704
Some Trees	1705
The Painter	1706
Pyrography	1707
Crazy Weather	1709
As We Know	1709
A Prison All the Same	1710
The Desperado	1710
At North Farm	1711

The Ongoing Story	1711
Down by the Station, Early in the Morning	1712
GALWAY KINNELL (1927–)	1712
To Christ Our Lord	1713
The Bear	1714
Fergus Falling	1716
W. S. MERWIN (1927–)	1717
Grandmother and Grandson	1718
The Drunk in the Furnace	1719
The Last One	1719
Vision	1721
Trees	1721
JAMES WRIGHT (1927–1980)	1722
Morning Hymn to a Dark Girl	1722
A Note Left in Jimmy Leonard's Shack	1723
Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio	1724
Having Lost My Sons, I Confront the Wreckage of the Moon: Christmas, 1960	1724
In Terror of Hospital Bills	1725
Two Postures Beside a Fire	1726
The Vestal in the Forum	1726
ANNE SEXTON (1928–1974)	1727
Her Kind	1728
The Farmer's Wife	1728
The Truth the Dead Know	1729
All My Pretty Ones	1729
With Mercy for the Greedy	1730
Letter Written on a Ferry While Crossing Long Island Sound	1731
ADRIENNE RICH (1929–)	1733
Aunt Jennifer's Tigers	1734
Living in Sin	1734
The Diamond Cutters	1735
Necessities of Life	1736
The Trees	1737
Face to Face	1738
Diving into the Wreck	1738
For the Dead	1741
Upper Broadway	1741
For the Record	1741
GARY SNYDER (1930–)	1742
The Late Snow & Lumber Strike of the Summer of Fifty-four	1743
Riprap	1744

this poem is for bear	1744
Not Leaving the House	1745
Axe Handles	1746
SYLVIA PLATH (1932–1963)	1747
Morning Song	1748
The Rival	1748
The Arrival of the Bee Box	1749
The Applicant	1749
Daddy	1750
Lady Lazarus	1752
Death & Co.	1755
Child	1755
Mystic	1756
AMIRI BARAKA (1934–)	1757
In Memory of Radio	1757
An Agony. As Now.	1758
CHARLES SIMIC (1938–)	1759
Fear	1760
Bestiary for the Fingers of My Right Hand	1760
Fork	1761
Euclid Avenue	1762
Prodigy	1763
My Weariness of Epic Proportions	1763
DAVE SMITH (1942–)	1764
On a Field Trip at Fredericksburg	1765
Cumberland Station	1766
The Roundhouse Voices	1768
Elegy in an Abandoned Boatyard	1769
The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal	1771
RITA DOVE (1952–)	1772
Champagne	1772
Ö	1773
Dusting	1773
Roast Possum	1774
THE LATER TWENTIETH CENTURY: DRAMA	
EDWARD ALBEE (1928–)	1776
The American Dream	1777
SAM SHEPARD (1943–)	1801
True West	1803

AUGUST WILSON (1945–)	1841
Fences	1841
THE LATER TWENTIETH CENTURY: FICTION	
JOHN BARTH (1930–)	1887
Lost in the Funhouse	1888
TONI MORRISON (1931–)	1903
Sula	
1922	1903
JOHN UPDIKE (1932–)	1912
Separating	1913
PHILIP ROTH (1933–)	1920
The Conversion of the Jews	1922
THOMAS PYNCHON (1937–)	1932
Entropy	1933
RAYMOND CARVER (1938–1988)	1943
A Small, Good Thing	1944
JOYCE CAROL OATES (1938–)	1960
Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?	1961
BOBBIE ANN MASON (1940–)	1972
Shiloh	1973
ANNE TYLER (1941–)	1982
Average Waves in Unprotected Waters	1983
ALICE WALKER (1944–)	1989
Everyday Use	1990
TIM O'BRIEN (1946–)	1996
Going After Cacciato	
Night March	1997
ANN BEATTIE (1947–)	2003
Janus	2004

	<i>Contents</i> • <i>xxiii</i>
AMY TAN (1952–)	
Half and Half	2008
	2009
LOUISE ERDRICH (1954–)	
The Red Convertible	2018
	2019
BIBLIOGRAPHY	2027
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	2043
INDEX	2055