

## **CREATIVE WRITING LIST – Poetry**

**Note:** In preparing for the creative writing comprehensive examination, the student is expected to become familiar with most of these works, meaning the student should become broadly aware of their themes and importance. The student is not expected to read all of them, nor is this list meant to serve as a definitive canon. Rather the student should think of it as a starting point for assembling a list of about 40 works in consultation with the major professor. These are also works that have proven influential or inspiring for other writers and thus serve as good springboards for writing.

### Single Author Collections

#### **Ai**

*Vice: New and Selected Poems*

#### **Anna Akhmatova**

*Requiem*

#### **W.H. Auden**

*Selected Poems*

#### **John Ashbery**

*Collected Poems*

#### **Ted Berrigan**

*Sonnets*

#### **John Berryman**

*77 Dream Songs*

#### **Frank Bidart**

*Half-Light: Collected Poems*

#### **Elizabeth Bishop**

*The Collected Poems*

#### **Eavan Boland**

*New Collected Poems*

#### **Lucie Brock-Broido**

*The Master Letters*

#### **Gwendolyn Brooks**

*Selected Poems*

#### **Anne Carson**

*Autobiography of Red*

*The Beauty of the Husband*

**Lucille Clifton**

*How to Carry Water: Selected Poems*

**Robert Creeley**

*Selected Poems*

**Mark Doty**

*My Alexandria*

**Rita Dove**

*Collected Poems: 1974 – 2004*

**Cornelius Eady**

*Brutal Imagination*

**Carolyn Forché**

*The Country Between Us*

**Louise Gluck**

*Poems 1962 - 2012*

**Allen Ginsberg**

*Collected Poems 1947-1997*

**Seamus Heaney**

*Opened Ground: Selected Poems*

**Lyn Hejinian**

*My Life*

**Marie Howe**

*What the Living Do*

**Jorie Graham**

*From the New World: Poems 1976 - 2014*

**Joy Harjo**

*How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*

**Robert Hayden**

*Collected Poems*

**Donald Justice**

*Selected Poems*

**Brigit Pegeen Kelly**

*Song*

**Galway Kinnell**

*Book of Nightmares*

**Kenneth Koch**

*Selected Poems*

**Yusef Komunyakaa**

*Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems*

**Philip Larkin**

*Collected Poems*

**Li-Young Lee**

*The City in Which I Love You*

**Philip Levine**

*New Selected Poems*

**Larry Levis**

*Elegy*

**Audre Lorde**

*Collected Poems*

**Robert Lowell**

*Selected Poems*

**W.S. Merwin**

*Migration*

**Alice Notley**

*Grave of Light*

**Frank O'Hara**

*Selected Poems*

**Sharon Olds**

*Strike Sparks: Selected Poems*

**George Oppen**

*Selected Poems*

**Sylvia Plath**

*Collected Poems*

**Claudia Rankine**

*Citizen*

**Adrienne Rich**

*Selected Poems: 1950 - 2012*

**Theodore Roethke**

*Collected Poems*

**Mary Ruefle**  
*Selected Poems*

**James Schuyler**  
*Selected Poems*

**Charles Simic**  
*New and Selected Poems*

**Anne Sexton**  
*Collected Poems*

**Frank Stanford**  
*The Singing Knives*

**Mark Strand**  
*New Selected Poems*

**James Tate**  
*Selected Poems*

**Natasha Trethewey**  
*Monument: Poems New and Selected*

**Jean Valentine**  
*Door in the Mountain*

**C.D. Wright**  
*Steal Away: New and Selected*

**Charles Wright**  
*Country Music: Selected Early Poems*  
*Bye-and-Bye: Selected Later Poems*

**James Wright**  
*Collected Poems*

**Adam Zagajewski**  
*New and Selected Poems*

## Anthologies

*Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*, Charles Henry Rowell, ed.

*Contemporary American Poetry*, Donald Hall, ed.

*The Oxford Book of American Poetry*, David Lehman and John Brehm, eds.

## Form and Theory

**Eavan Boland and Mark Strand**

*The Making of a Poem*

**Stephen Dobyns**

*Best Words, Best Order*

**Paul Fussell**

*Poetic Meter & Poetic Form*

**Louise Gluck**

*Proofs and Theories*

**Robert Hass**

*20th Century Pleasures*

**Susan Howe**

*My Emily Dickinson*

**Richard Hugo**

*The Triggering Town*

**Mary Oliver**

*A Poetry Handbook*

**David Perkins**

*A History of Modern Poetry, Modernism and After*

**Carl Phillips**

*The Art of Daring: Risk, Restlessness, Imagination*

**Robert Pinsky**

*The Sounds of Poetry: A Brief Guide*

**Alex Preminger**

*Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (as reference)

**Mary Ruefle**

*Madness, Rack, and Honey*

**Barbara Hernstein Smith**

*Poetic Closure: A Study of How Poems End*

**Michael Theune**

*Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns*

**Ellen Bryant Voigt**

*The Art of Syntax: Rhythm of Thought, Rhythm of Song*

**Charles Wright**

*Halflife: Improvisations and Interviews*