

In 2018, faculty and graduate students of the Iowa English Department suggested these poems in response to the question, "What Poem Should a Person Read?"

The list is a collaborative effort, and an asterix (*) indicates that a poem had already been suggested when another person went to put it on the list. Multiple asterisks mean a poem has been selected by multiple people.

Blue text indicates that this poem has been copied and saved as a .pdf! It is available for instructors to upload to their ICON page and use easily. For GEL, this list should be viewed as a handy resource, but not a stopping point -- you are always free and encouraged to scan and use additional poems in your own classes.

Author	Title
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*Anonymous,	"Beowulf"
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***Arnold, Matthew,	"Dover Beach"
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---,	"Isolation: To Marguerite"
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Atwood, Margaret,	"Death of a Young Son by Drowning"
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---,	"Spelling"
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Auden,	"As I Walked Out One Evening"
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*Auden, W. H.,	"Musée des Beaux Arts"
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Berryman, John,	"The Dream Songs" (Dream Song 14)
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Bishop, Elizabeth	"A Miracle for Breakfast"
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---,	"Sestina"
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***---,	"One Art"
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Borges, Jorge Luis,	"Poem Written in a Copy of Beowulf"
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**Brooks, Gwendolyn,	"We Real Cool,"
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---,	"Gay Chaps at the Bar,"
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---,	"The Mother"
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---,	"Kitchenette Building"
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---,	"Lovers of the Poor"
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Browning, Elizabeth,	"The Cry of the Children"
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***Browning, Robert,	"My Last Duchess"
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Coleridge, S. T.,	"Kubla Khan"
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Clifton, Lucille,	"The Earth is a Living Thing"
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Creeley, Robert,	"I Know a Man"
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*Cullen, Countee,	"Heritage"
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Cummings, e.e.,	"anyone lived in a pretty how town"
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***Dickinson,	"Because I could not stop for Death"
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*---,	"I Measure Every Grief I Meet"
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*---,	"I dwell in Possibility"
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*---, "I heard a Fly buzz"
 ****---, "My life had stood a loaded gun"
 *****Donne, John "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"
 Dove, Rita, "Ars Poetica"
 ---. "Adolescence III"
 Dunbar, Paul Laurence, "We Wear the Mask"
 ***T.S. Eliot, "The Wasteland",
 *--"Ash Wednesday",
 **--"The Hollow Men,"
 *--"The Love Song ..."
 Eady, Cornelius, excerpts from *Brutal Imagination*
 *Forche, Carolyn, "The Colonel"
 *Frost, Robert, "The Road Not Taken,"
 --"Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening"
 *-- "Birches"
 ***Gray, Thomas, "Elegy in a Country Churchyard"
 *Gunn, Thom, "The Man With the Night Sweats"
 Ginsberg, Allen, "Howl"
 Graham, Jorie, "Reading Plato"
 Harjo, Joy, "Perhaps the World Ends Here"
 ---. "She Had Some Horses"
 Hayden, Robert, "Frederick Douglass"
 Hayes, Terrance, "The Golden Shovel"
 *****Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers,"
 ---. "The Weary Blues,"
 ---. "Theme for English B,"
 ---. "Harlem"
 *Herbert, George, "Easter Wings," "Love (III)"
 Hill, Geoffrey, "September Song"
 *Hopkins, Gerard Manley, "God's Grandeur"
 *---, "The Windhover"
 *Hughes, Langston, "Mother to Son"
 *---, "I, Too"
 Jarrell, Randall, "The Death of the Ball-Turret Gunner"
 *****Keats, Ode on a Grecian Urn
 Kaminsky, Ilya, "Author's Prayer"
 *Larkin, Philip, "This Be the Verse"
 Lorde, Audre, "Martha"
 *McKay, Claude, "If We Must Die"
 *Merwin, W. S., "For a Coming Extinction"
 *Milton, John, "Lycidas"
 *---, "When I consider how my light is spent"

Morris, Tracie (she is a sound poet with multiple recordings available here:
<http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/x/Morris.php>)

*O'Hara, Frank, "Having a Coke with You"

*--- "The Day Lady Died"

Plath, Sylvia, "Daddy"

---. "Mad Girl's Love Song"

Poe, Edgar Allan, "Annabel Lee"

Pope, Alexander, "An Essay on Man: Epistle 1"

*Pound, Ezra, "In a Station of the Metro"

*****Rich, Adrienne, "Diving into the Wreck"

*---, "Tear Gas"

Rilke, Duino Elegies

Roethke, Theodore, "My Papa's Waltz"

Rosemurgy, Catie. "Mostly Mick Jagger."

*Rossetti, Christina, "Goblin Market"

*---, "In an Artist's Studio"

Rukeyser, Muriel, from "The Book of the Dead"

*Sassoon, Siegfried, "Repression of War Experience"

Shakespeare, Sonnet 15

---, Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun")

*Sharif, Solmaz "Look"

Sexton, Anne. "The Truth the Dead Know"

***Shelley, P. B., "Ozymandias"

Shelley, P. B., "Prometheus Unbound"

---, "Ode to the West Wind"

Siken, Richard, "Litany in Which Certain Things Are Crossed Out"

Smith, Danez, "Dinosaurs in the Hood"

Stoddard, Christina "What It Is To Sin"

*Stein, Gertrude, from *Tender Buttons*

Stevens "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

Tennyson, Alfred. "The Lady of Shalott"

Trethewey, Natasha. "Elegy for the Native Guards"

---. "Enlightenment"

---. "Theories of Time and Space"

***Wheatley, Phillis, "On Being Brought from Africa to America"

***Whitman, Walt, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

---, "Song of Myself" (excerpts), "Calamus"

Wilde, Oscar, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"

*Williams, William Carlos, "A Sort of a Song," *"The Red Wheelbarrow," "Spring and All"

**Wordsworth, William, "Ode on Intimations of Immortality"

**---, "Tintern Abbey"

*****Yeats, W. B., "The Second Coming"

*---, "The Isle of Innisfree"

---, "Leda and the Swan"