



Sample Reading List — Massachusetts

Note: The only way to determine the rigor of academic expectations for literacy and informational text is to be explicit about the quality and complexity of the work students are asked to read and analyze. The following reading lists were developed by ADP partner states Indiana and Massachusetts and are included here so that readers can refer to these authors and titles when designing curricula to help students meet the ADP benchmarks.

For the purposes of this report we have included only the lists of authors and works corresponding to the 9–12 grade span. The full Appendix A, including authors and works corresponding to the PreK–2, 3–4 and 5–8 grade spans, is available on the Massachusetts Department of Education Web site www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/0601.pdf.

Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework June 2001

Appendix A: Suggested Authors, Illustrators, and Works Reflecting Our Common Literary and Cultural Heritage

All American students should acquire knowledge of a range of literary works reflecting a common literary heritage that goes back thousands of years to the ancient world. In addition, all students should become familiar with some of the outstanding works in the rich body of literature that is their particular heritage in the English-speaking world. This includes the first literature in the world created just for children—its authors viewing childhood as a special period in life. The suggestions in Appendix A constitute a core list of those authors, illustrators, or works that comprise the literary and intellectual capital drawn on by those who write in English, whether for novels, poems, non-fiction, newspapers, or public speeches, in this country or elsewhere. Knowledge of these authors, illustrators, and works in their original, adapted, or revised editions will contribute significantly to a student's ability to understand literary allusions and participate effectively in our common civic culture. Many more suggested contemporary authors, illustrators, and works from around the world are included in Appendix B. This list includes the many excellent writers and illustrators of children's books of recent years.*

In planning a curriculum, it is important to balance depth with breadth. As teachers in schools and districts work with this curriculum framework to develop literature units, they will often combine works from the two lists into thematic units. Exemplary curriculum is always evolving—we urge districts to take initiative to create programs meeting the needs of their students.

The lists of suggested authors and works in Appendices A and B are organized by the grade spans of PreK–2, 3–4, 5–8 and 9–12. Certain key works or authors are repeated in adjoining grade spans, giving teachers the option to match individual students with the books that suit their interests and developmental levels. The decision to present a Grades 9–12 list (as opposed to Grades 9–10 and 11–12) stems from the recognition that teachers should be free to choose selections that challenge, but do not overwhelm, their students.

*Selections for PreK–8 on both Appendix A and Appendix B were reviewed by Roger Sutton, Editor-in-Chief, and Martha V. Parravano, Senior Editor of the *Horn Book Magazine*. We gratefully acknowledge their contributions.

A. Grades 9–12

In addition to the 5–8 Selections:

Traditional and Classical literature:

A higher level rereading of

Greek mythology

Substantial selections from epic poetry: Homer’s *Odyssey* and

Iliad; Virgil’s *Aeneid*

Classical Greek drama

(Aeschylus, Sophocles,

Euripides)

The Bible as literature:

Genesis, Ten Commandments, selected psalms and proverbs,

Job, Sermon on the Mount,

selected parables

1. American Literature

Historical Documents of Literary and Philosophical

Significance:

Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg address

The Declaration of Independence

Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” or his “I Have a Dream” speech

John F. Kennedy’s inaugural speech

William Faulkner’s Nobel Prize lecture

Important Writers of the 18th and 19th Centuries:

James Fenimore Cooper

Stephen Crane

Emily Dickinson

Frederick Douglass

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Benjamin Franklin

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Henry James

Thomas Jefferson

Herman Melville

Edgar Allan Poe

Henry David Thoreau

Mark Twain

Phillis Wheatley

Walt Whitman

Important Writers of the First Half of the 20th Century:

Henry Adams

James Baldwin

Arna Bontemps

Willa Cather

Kate Chopin

Countee Cullen

Ralph Ellison

William Faulkner

Jessie Fauset

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Charlotte Gilman

Ernest Hemingway

O. Henry

Langston Hughes

Zora Neale Hurston

Sarah Orne Jewett

James Weldon Johnson

Flannery O’Connor

Gertrude Stein

John Steinbeck

James Thurber

Jean Toomer

Booker T. Washington

Edith Wharton

Richard Wright

In addition to the PreK–8 Selections:

Playwrights:

Lorraine Hansberry

Lillian Hellman

Arthur Miller

Eugene O’Neill

Thornton Wilder

Tennessee Williams

August Wilson

Poets:

Elizabeth Bishop

e e cummings

Robert Frost

T. S. Eliot

Robinson Jeffers

Amy Lowell

Robert Lowell



Sample Reading List — Massachusetts

Edgar Lee Masters

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Marianne Moore

Sylvia Plath

Ezra Pound

John Crowe Ransom

Edward Arlington Robinson

Theodore Roethke

Wallace Stevens

Alan Tate

Sara Teasdale

William Carlos Williams

Immigrant Experience:

Works about the European, South and East Asian, Caribbean, Central American, and South American immigrant experience (Ole Rolvaag, Younghill Kang, Abraham Cahan), the experiences of Native Americans, and slave narratives (Harriet Jacobs).

2. British and European Literature

Poetry:

Selections from Chaucer's

Canterbury Tales

Epic poetry: Dante and John

Milton

Sonnets: William Shakespeare,

John Milton, Edmund Spenser

Metaphysical poetry: John

Donne, George Herbert,

Andrew Marvell

Romantic poets: William Blake,

Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor

Coleridge, John Keats, Percy

Bysshe Shelley, William

Wordsworth

Victorian poetry: Matthew

Arnold, Elizabeth Barrett

Browning, Robert Browning,

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Alfred

Lord Tennyson

Twentieth Century: W. H.

Auden, A. E. Housman, Dylan

Thomas, William Butler Yeats

Drama:

William Shakespeare

Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen,

George Bernard Shaw, Oscar

Wilde

Essays:

British essays:

Joseph Addison

Sir Francis Bacon

Samuel Johnson in "The Rambler"

Charles Lamb

George Orwell

Leonard Woolf

Enlightenment essays:

Voltaire

Diderot and other

Encyclopédistes

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Fiction:

Selections from an early novel:

Miguel de Cervantes' *Don*

Quixote

Henry Fielding's *Joseph*

Andrews

Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of*

Wakefield

Selections from John Bunyan's allegory, *Pilgrim's Progress*

Satire, or mock epic, verse or prose: Lord Byron, Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift

19th century novels:

Jane Austen

Emily Brontë

Joseph Conrad

Charles Dickens

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

George Eliot

Thomas Hardy

Victor Hugo

Mary Shelley

Leo Tolstoy

20th century novels:

Albert Camus

André Gide

James Joyce

Franz Kafka

D. H. Lawrence

Jean-Paul Sartre

Virginia Woolf

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Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework June 2001

Appendix B: Suggested Authors and Illustrators of Contemporary American Literature and World Literature

All students should be familiar with American authors and illustrators of the present and those who established their reputations after the end of World War II, as well as important writers from around the world, both historical and contemporary. During the last half of the 20th century, the publishing industry in the United States devoted increasing resources to children’s and young adult literature created by writers and illustrators from a variety of backgrounds. Many newer anthologies and textbooks offer excellent selections of contemporary and world literature.

As they choose works for class reading or suggest books for independent reading, teachers should ensure that their students are both engaged and appropriately challenged by their selections. The lists following are organized by grade clusters PreK–2, 3–4, 5–8 and 9–12, but these divisions are far from rigid, particularly for the elementary and middle grades. Many contemporary authors write stories, poetry, and non-fiction for very young children, for those in the middle grades, and for adults as well. As children become independent readers, they often are eager and ready to read authors that may be listed at a higher level. As suggested earlier in the Reading and Literature Strand of this framework, teachers and librarians need to be good matchmakers, capable of getting the right books into a child’s hands at the right time.

The lists below are provided as a starting point; they are necessarily incomplete, because excellent new writers appear every year. As all English teachers know, some authors have written many works, not all of which are of equally high quality. We expect teachers to use their literary judgment in selecting any particular work. It is hoped that teachers will find here many authors with whose works they are already familiar, and will be introduced to yet others. **A comprehensive literature curriculum balances these authors and illustrators with those found in Appendix A.**



Sample Reading List — Massachusetts

Grades 9–12

Contemporary American Literature

Fiction:

James Agee
Maya Angelou
Saul Bellow
Pearl Buck
Raymond Carver
John Cheever
Sandra Cisneros
Arthur C. Clarke
E. L. Doctorow
Louise Erdrich
Nicholas Gage
Ernest K. Gaines
Alex Haley
Joseph Heller
William Hoffman
John Irving
William Kennedy
Ken Kesey
Jamaica Kincaid
Maxine Hong Kingston
Jon Krakauer
Harper Lee
Bernard Malamud
Carson McCullers
Toni Morrison
Joyce Carol Oates
Tim O'Brien
Edwin O'Connor
Cynthia Ozick

Chaim Potok
Reynolds Price
Annie Proulx
Ayn Rand
Richard Rodriguez
Leo Rosten
Saki
J. D. Salinger
William Saroyan
May Sarton
Jane Smiley
Betty Smith
Wallace Stegner
Amy Tan
Anne Tyler
John Updike
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
Alice Walker
Robert Penn Warren
Eudora Welty
Thomas Wolfe
Tobias Wolff
Anzia Yezierska

Poetry:
Claribel Alegria
Julia Alvarez
A. R. Ammons
Maya Angelou
John Ashberry
Jimmy Santiago Baca
Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)
Elizabeth Bishop

Robert Bly
Louise Bogan
Arna Bontemps
Gwendolyn Brooks
Sterling Brown
Hayden Carruth
J. V. Cunningham
Rita Dove
Alan Dugan
Richard Eberhart
Martin Espada
Allen Ginsberg
Louise Gluck
John Haines
Donald Hall
Robert Hayden
Anthony Hecht
Randall Jarrell
June Jordan
Galway Kinnell
Stanley Kunitz
Philip Levine
Audrey Lord
Amy Lowell
Robert Lowell
Louis MacNeice
James Merrill
Mary Tall Mountain
Sylvia Plath
Anna Quindlen
Ishmael Reed
Adrienne Rich
Theodore Roethke

Anne Sexton
Karl Shapiro
Gary Snyder
William Stafford
Mark Strand
May Swenson
Margaret Walker
Richard Wilbur
Charles Wright
Elinor Wylie

**Essay/Nonfiction
(Contemporary and
Historical):**

Edward Abbey
Susan B. Anthony
Russell Baker
Ambrose Bierce
Carol Bly
Dee Brown
Art Buchwald
William F. Buckley
Rachel Carson
Margaret Cheney
Marilyn Chin
Stanley Crouch
Joan Didion
Annie Dillard
W. E. B. Du Bois
Gretel Ehrlich
Loren Eiseley
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Doris Goodwin

Stephen Jay Gould
John Gunther
John Hersey
Edward Hoagland
Helen Keller
William Least Heat Moon
Barry Lopez
J. Anthony Lukas
Mary McCarthy
Edward McClanahan
David McCullough
John McPhee
William Manchester
H. L. Mencken
N. Scott Momaday
Samuel Eliot Morison
Lance Morrow
Bill Moyers
John Muir
Anna Quindlen
Chet Raymo
Richard Rodriguez
Eleanor Roosevelt
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Theodore Roosevelt
Carl Sagan
William Shirer
Shelby Steele
Lewis Thomas
Cornell West
Walter Muir Whitehill
Malcolm X

Drama:

Edward Albee
Robert Bolt
Jerome Lawrence and Robert E.
Lee
Archibald MacLeish
Terrence Rattigan
Ntozake Shange
Neil Simon
Orson Welles



Sample Reading List — Massachusetts

Grades 9–12

Historical and Contemporary World Literature

Fiction:

Chinua Achebe
S. Y. Agnon
Ilse Aichinger
Isabel Allende
Jerzy Andrzejewski
Margaret Atwood
Isaac Babel
James Berry
Heinrich Böll
Jorge Luis Borges
Mikhail Bulgakov
Dino Buzzati
A.S. Byatt
Italo Calvino
Karl Capek
Carlo Cassola
Camillo Jose Cela
Julio Cortazar
Isak Dinesen
E. M. Forster
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Nikolai Gogol
William Golding
Robert Graves
Hermann Hesse
Wolfgang Hildesheimer
Aldous Huxley
Kazuo Ishiguro
Yuri Kazakov

Milan Kundera
Stanislaw Lem
Primo Levi
Jacov Lind
Clarice Lispector
Naguib Mahfouz
Thomas Mann
Alberto Moravia
Mordecai Richler
Alice Munro
Vladimir Nabokov
V. S. Naipaul
Alan Paton
Cesar Pavese
Santha Rama Rau
Rainer Maria Rilke
Ignazio Silone
Isaac Bashevis Singer
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Niccolo Tucci
Mario Vargas-Llosa
Elie Wiesel
Emile Zola

Poetry:

Bella Akhmadulina
Anna Akhmatova
Rafael Alberti
Josif Brodsky
Constantine Cavafis
Odysseus Elytis
Federico García Lorca
Seamus Heaney
Ted Hughes

Philip Larkin
Czeslaw Milosz
Gabriela Mistral
Pablo Neruda
Octavio Paz
Jacques Prévert
Alexander Pushkin
Salvatore Quasimodo
Juan Ramon Ramirez
Arthur Rimbaud
Pierre de Ronsard
George Seferis
Léopold Sédar Senghor
Wole Soyinka
Marina Tsvetaeva
Paul Verlaine
Andrei Voznesensky
Derek Walcott
Yevgeny Yevtushenko

Essay/Nonfiction:

Winston Churchill
Mahatma Gandhi
Stephen Hawking
Arthur Koestler
Margaret Laurence
Michel de Montaigne
Shiva Naipaul
Octavio Paz
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Alexis de Tocqueville
Voltaire
Rebecca West
Marguerite Yourcenar

Drama:

Jean Anouilh

Fernando Arrabal

Samuel Beckett

Bertolt Brecht

Albert Camus

Jean Cocteau

Athol Fugard

Jean Giraudoux

Eugene Ionesco

Molière

John Mortimer

Sean O'Casey

John Osborne

Harold Pinter

Luigi Pirandello

Jean-Paul Sartre

John Millington Synge

Religious Literature:

Analects of Confucius

Bhagavad-Gita

The Koran

Tao Te Ching

Book of the Hopi

Zen parables

Buddhist scripture