

The Harper American Literature

Volume 2

Part Two

► Donald McQuade

University of California, Berkeley

General Editor

► Robert Atwan

Seton Hall University

► Martha Banta

University of California at Los Angeles

► Justin Kaplan

► David Minter

Emory University

► Cecelia Tichi

Boston University

► Helen Vendler

Harvard University



Harper & Row, Publishers, New York
Cambridge, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Washington,
London, Mexico City, São Paulo, Singapore, Sydney



Contents

1489 The Literature of Modernism: Poetry / 1912-1940

1501 *Robert Frost (1875-1963)*

- 1503 Mowing
- 1504 October
- 1505 Reluctance
- 1505 Mending Wall
- 1507 Home Burial
- 1510 After Apple-Picking
- 1511 The Road Not Taken
- 1512 The Oven Bird
- 1512 Birches
- 1514 Fire and Ice
- 1514 Nothing Gold Can Stay
- 1514 Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
- 1515 For Once, Then, Something
- 1516 To Earthward
- 1517 The Need of Being Versed in Country Things
- 1518 Once by the Pacific
- 1518 Immigrants
- 1518 Desert Places
- 1519 Design
- 1520 Provide, Provide
- 1520 The Most of It

1521	The Gift Outright
1522	Time Out
1522	Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)
1524	Chicago
1525	Graceland
1526	Fog
1526	Portrait of a Motorcar
1526	Cool Tombs
1527	Grass
1527	Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)
1531	Sunday Morning
1534	Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird
1536	Anecdote of the Jar
1537	The Paltry Nude Starts on a Spring Voyage
1538	The Snow Man
1538	The Emperor of Ice-Cream
1539	The Idea of Order at Key West
1541	A Postcard from the Volcano
1542	Arrival at the Waldorf
1542	No Possum No Sop No Taters
1543	The Auror of Autumn
1551	Angel Surrounded by Paysans
1552	Final Soliloquy of the Interior Paramour
1553	The Plain Sense of Things
1554	The Planet on the Table
1554	The River of Rivers in Connecticut
1555	Not Ideas About the Thing but the Thing Itself
1556	The Course of a Particular
1557	Of Mere Being
1557	William Carlos Williams (1893-1963)
1560	The Young Housewife
1561	El Hombre
1561	Danse Russe
1562	Love Song
1562	Queen Anne's Lace
1563	Paterson
1565	Spring and All
1566	The Rose
1567	To Elsie
1569	The Red Wheelbarrow
1570	The Sea-Elephant
1572	The Botticellian Trees
1574	This Is Just to Say

- 1574 Flowers by the Sea
 1575 To a Poor Old Woman
 1575 The Yachts
 1576 The Poor
 1577 These
 1578 Paterson: The Falls
 1579 Burning the Christmas Greens
 1582 Impromptu: The Suckers
 1584 The Last Words of My English Grandmother
 1585 The Three Graces
 1586 The Descent
 1587 A Negro Woman
 1588 Poem
 1588 The Rewaking

 1589 *Ezra Pound (1885-1972)*
 1594 Sestina: Altaforte
 1596 The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter
 1597 The Garden
 1598 Salutation
 1598 A Pact
 1598 In a Station of the Metro
 1599 *from* Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (Life and Contacts)
 1599 I: E. P. Ode pour l'Election de Son Sepulchre
 1599 II
 1600 III
 1601 IV
 1602 V
 1602 *from* The Cantos
 1602 I
 1604 *from* XVI
 1606 *from* XLV
 1608 *from* LXXXI
 1610 *from* CXV

 1610 *Robinson Jeffers (1887-1962)*
 1613 Boats in a Fog
 1614 Apology for Bad Dreams
 1617 The Torch-Bearers' Race

 1619 *Marianne Moore (1887-1972)*
 1621 Poetry
 1623 The Fish
 1624 In the Days of Prismatic Color

- 1625 England
- 1626 When I Buy Pictures
- 1627 A Grave
- 1628 New York
- 1629 No Swan So Fine
- 1630 The Monkey Puzzle
- 1631 Nevertheless
- 1632 His Shield
- 1633 Melancthon

- 1635 *T. S. Eliot (1888–1965)*
 - 1639 The Death of Saint Narcissus
 - 1640 The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
 - 1644 La Figlia Che Piange
 - 1644 Whispers of Immortality
 - 1646 Sweeney Among the Nightingales
 - 1647 The Waste Land
 - 1666 *from* Four Quartets
 - 1666 Burnt Norton

- 1671 *John Crowe Ransom (1888–1974)*
 - 1673 Piazza Piece
 - 1673 Vision by Sweetwater
 - 1674 Parting, Without a Sequel
 - 1674 Dead Boy
 - 1675 The Equilibrists

- 1677 *E. E. Cummings (1884–1962)*
 - 1679 [in Just-]
 - 1680 [the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls]
 - 1681 [mr youse needn't be so spry]
 - 1681 [she being Brand]
 - 1682 ["next to of course god america i]
 - 1683 [my sweet old etcetera]
 - 1684 [i sing of Olaf glad and big]
 - 1685 [r-p-o-p-h-e-s-s-a-g-r]
 - 1686 [may i feel said he]
 - 1687 [this little bride & groom are]
 - 1687 [anyone lived in a pretty how town]
 - 1689 [l(a)]

- 1689 *Hart Crane (1899–1932)*
 - 1691 Black Tambourine
 - 1692 Chaplinesque

1693	Repose of Rivers
1693	Passage
1695	At Melville's Tomb
1695	Voyages
1700	from The Bridge
1700	To Brooklyn Bridge
1701	The Dance
1704	Atlantis
1707	O Carib Isle!
1708	The Idiot
1708	The Broken Tower
1709	<i>Allen Tate (1899-1979)</i>
1711	Ode to the Confederate Dead
1714	The Meaning of Life
1714	Sonnets at Christmas
1715	The Swimmers
1718	<i>Langston Hughes (1902-1967)</i>
1720	The Negro Speaks of Rivers
1720	I, Too
1721	Dream Boogie
1722	Sister
1723	Preference
1723	Movies
1724	Not a Movie
1724	Numbers
1725	Advice
1725	Ballad of the Landlord
1726	Cafe: 3 A.M.
1727	Theme for English B
1728	Low to High
1729	High to Low
1729	Deferred
1731	World War II
1732	Passing
1732	Likewise
1733	Sliver
1734	Harlem
1734	Good Morning
1735	Same in Blues
1736	Comment on Curb
1736	Letter
1737	Island

1737 **Countee Cullen (1903-1946)**

1738 Yet Do I Marvel

1739 Incident

1739 Heritage

1742 To Certain Critics

1745 **The Literature of Postwar America: Prose / 1940-1973**

1770 **Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977)**

1772 from *Lolita*

1772 from Part II

1772 I

1775 2

1779 *Terra Incognita*

1784 **James Agee (1909-1955)**

1786 from *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*

1786 [from *All over Alabama*]

1786 (On the Porch: I

1788 from Part I: A Country Letter

1788 from I

1793 from II

1795 [Two Images]

1796 **Eudora Welty (b. 1909)**

1798 Why I Live at the P.O.

1806 **Wright Morris (b. 1910)**

1807 *Green Grass, Blue Sky, White House*

1816 **Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)**

1819 *Portrait of a Madonna*

1828 **John Cheever (1912-1982)**

1829 *The Fourth Alarm*

1833 **Tillie Olsen (b. 1913)**

1835 I Stand Here Ironing

- 1840 **Ralph Ellison (b. 1914)**
 1842 *from* Invisible Man
 1842 Prologue: ["What Did I Do to Be So Black and Blue?"]
 1848 Chapter 1: [The Battle Royal]
 1858 Epilogue: [Speaking for You]
 1863 Twentieth-Century Fiction and the Black Mask of Humanity
- 1874 **Bernard Malamud (1914–1986)**
 1876 The Magic Barrel
- 1887 **Saul Bellow (b. 1915)**
 1889 Seize the Day
- 1953 **Arthur Miller (b. 1915)**
 1955 Death of a Salesman
- 2026 **Walker Percy (b. 1916)**
 2028 The Last Donahue Show
- 2035 **Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917)**
 2036 *from* Maud Martha
 2036 18: We're the Only Colored People Here
- 2038 **Norman Mailer (b. 1923)**
 2041 *from* The Armies of the Night
 2041 Book I: History As a Novel: The Steps of the Pentagon
 2041 *from* Part I, 5: Toward a Theater of Ideas
 2050 *from* Of a Fire on the Moon
 2050 *from* Chapter 7: A Sleep on the Moon
 2050 *from* IV: [On the Floor of a Dark Theater]
 2052 V: [The Heavens Become Part of Our World]
- 2056 **William Gass (b. 1924)**
 2057 In the Heart of the Heart of the Country
- 2076 **James Baldwin (b. 1924)**
 2078 Sonny's Blues
- 2099 **Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964)**
 2101 A Good Man Is Hard to Find
 2112 Good Country People

- 2125 *John Barth (b. 1930)*
 2127 Night-Sea Journey
 2132 The Literature of Exhaustion
- 2142 *Donald Barthelme (b. 1931)*
 2143 Robert Kennedy Saved from Drowning
- 2150 *John Updike (b. 1932)*
 2152 Separating
- 2159 *Susan Sontag (b. 1933)*
 2160 America, Seen Through Photographs, Darkly
- 2172 *Philip Roth (b. 1933)*
 2175 "I Always Wanted You to Admire My Fasting"; or,
 Looking at Kafka
- 2187 *N. Scott Momaday (b. 1934)*
 2189 from House Made of Dawn
 2189 from The Priest of the Sun
- 2197 *Joan Didion (b. 1934)*
 2198 Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream
- 2210 *Larry McMurtry (b. 1936)*
 2212 from The Last Picture Show
 2212 Chapter VIII: [To Paducah and Back]
- 2217 *Thomas Pynchon (b. 1937)*
 2219 Entropy
- 2229 *Joyce Carol Oates (b. 1938)*
 2231 from How I Contemplated the World from the
 Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life
 Over Again

2243 The Literature of Postwar America: Poetry / 1940–1973

- 2254 *Theodore Roethke (1908–1963)*
 2255 Cuttings
 2255 Cuttings (later)

- 2256 My Papa's Waltz
 2256 Dolor
 2257 The Lost Son
 2262 Elegy for Jane
 2263 The Waking
 2263 Heard in a Violent Ward
- 2264 Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979)**
 2265 The Fish
 2267 Over 2000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance
 2269 The Bight
 2270 At the Fishhouses
 2272 Questions of Travel
 2274 The Armadillo
 2276 Sestina
 2277 Filling Station
 2278 In the Waiting Room
 2281 Crusoe in England
 2285 Poem
 2287 North Haven
- 2288 Robert Hayden (1913-1980)**
 2289 Sphinx
 2290 Tour 5
 2291 Homage to the Empress of the Blues
 2291 Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday
 2292 Those Winter Sundays
 2293 Middle Passage
 2298 Frederick Douglass
- 2299 Randall Jarrell (1914-1965)**
 2300 The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner
 2300 Losses
 2301 A Lullaby
 2302 The Woman at the Washington Zoo
 2303 Next Day
- 2305 John Berryman (1914-1972)**
 2307 from The Dream Songs
 2307 1: [Huffy Henry]
 2307 4: [Filling her compact & delicious body]
 2308 5: [Henry sats]
 2308 14: [Life, friends]
 2309 26: [The glories of the world]
 2309 29: [There sat down, once]
 2310 45: [He stared at ruin]

- 2311 77: [Seedy Henry]
 2311 164: [Three limbs]
 2312 219: So long² Stevens
 2313 384: [The marker slants]
 2313 [With arms outflung]
 2314 [Old codger Henry]
 2315 [All projects failed]
- 2315 **Robert Lowell (1917–1977)**
 2318 Where the Rainbow Ends
 2319 Sailing Home from Rapallo
 2321 Waking in the Blue
 2322 Home After Three Months Away
 2323 Skunk Hour
 2325 For the Union Dead
 2327 Waking Early Sunday Morning
 2330 The March I
 2331 Death and the Bridge
 2331 New Year's Eve 1968
 2332 Harriet
 2332 *from Mexico*
 1.; 4.
 2333 Obit
 2334 History
 2334 Will Not Come Back
 2335 Reading Myself
 2335 Fishnet
 2336 For John Berryman
 2338 For Sheridan
 2338 Epilogue
- 2339 **Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917)**
 2341 *from* A Street in Bronzeville
 2341 The Mother
 2342 *from* The Womanhood
 2342 *from* I: The Children of the Poor
 2342 2
 2343 A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi.
 Meanwhile, a Mississippi Mother Burns Bacon.
 2347 The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till
 2347 The Lovers of the Poor
- 2350 **Howard Nemerov (b. 1920)**
 2351 The Daily Globe
 2351 To David, About His Education
 2352 The Sweeper of Ways

- 2353 Thirtieth Anniversary Report of the Class of '41
 2354 Ginkgoes in Fall

2354 *Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)*

- 2355 Folk Tune
 2356 Winter Spring
 2357 The Beautiful Changes
 2358 To an American Poet Just Dead
 2358 Mind
 2359 Playboy
 2360 The Writer
 2361 Cottage Street, 1953
 2362 April 5, 1974

2363 *James Dickey (b. 1923)*

- 2363 The Hospital Window
 2365 Cherrylog Road
 2368 Buckdancer's Choice
 2369 The Sheep Child

2371 *A. R. Ammons (b. 1926)*

- 2373 Hardweed Path Going
 2375 Reflective
 2375 Apologia pro Vita Sua
 2376 Mountain Talk
 2377 Cascadilla Falls
 2378 Body Politic
 2378 Classic
 2379 Clarity
 2380 Hope's Okay
 2380 Transaction
 2381 Treaties
 2382 The City Limits
 2382 The Eternal City
 2383 Grace Abounding
 2384 Bonus
 2384 Easter Morning

2387 *Allen Ginsberg (b. 1926)*

- 2389 *from Howl*
 2389 I
 2394 A Supermarket in California
 2395 Sunflower Sutra
 2396 America
 2399 Kaddish

- 2417 The Lion for Real
 2418 American Change
 2420 Chances "R"
 2421 *from* Mugging
 2421 I
- 2423 **James Merrill (b. 1926)**
 2425 The Broken Home
 2428 Days of 1964
 2430 Matinees
 2433 *from* In Nine Sleep Valley
 2433 [Geode, the troll's melon]
 2434 Syrinx
 2435 *from* The Book of Ephraim
 2435 [L]
 2438 [Z]
 2440 *from* Mirabell: Books of Number
 2440 *from* 9
 2441 Samos
- 2443 **Frank O'Hara (1926–1966)**
 2445 Blocks
 2446 To the Harbormaster
 2446 To the Film Industry in Crisis
 2447 A Step Away from Them
 2449 The Day Lady Died
 2450 Ave Maria
 2451 An Image of Leda
 2452 Poetry
 2452 Why I Am Not a Painter
 2453 A True Account of Talking to the Sun at Fire Island
 2455 First Dances
- 2456 **John Ashbery (b. 1927)**
 2459 The Orioles
 2460 Some Trees
 2460 The Painter
 2462 These Lacustrine Cities
 2463 Soonest Mended
 2465 Years of Indiscretion
 2465 As One Put Drunk into the Packet-Boat
 2467 The One Thing That Can Save America
 2468 Street Musicians
 2469 Pyrography
 2471 Syringa
 2473 Many Wagons Ago

- 2474 A Love Poem
 2474 Landscapepeople
 2475 Drunken Americans
- 2475 *W. S. Merwin (b. 1927)*
- 2477 The Fishermen
 2477 Odysseus
 2478 In Stony Country
 2478 Noah's Raven
 2479 Some Last Questions
 2479 For the Anniversary of My Death
 2480 The Asians Dying
 2481 For a Coming Extinction
 2482 Elegy
 2482 Under the Migrants
 2483 Tool
 2483 The Chase
 2484 Span
 2484 Line
- 2485 *James Wright (1927-1980)*
- 2486 Lament for My Brother on a Hayrake
 2487 A Note Left in Jimmy Leonard's Shack
 2488 At the Executed Murderer's Grave
 2490 Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio
 2491 Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota
 2491 Having Lost My Sons, I Confront the Wreckage of the Moon
 2492 Before a Cashier's Window in a Department Store
 2493 Willy Lyons
 2494 Two Postures Beside a Fire
 2495 Small Frogs Killed on the Highway
- 2495 *Anne Sexton (1928-1975)*
- 2497 Her Kind
 2497 Ringing the Bells
 2498 With Mercy for the Greedy
 2499 Self in 1958
 2501 For My Lover, Returning to His Wife
 2502 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 2506 The Silence
 2507 January 1st

2508 *Adrienne Rich (b. 1929)*

- 2510 The Middle-aged
- 2510 Living in Sin
- 2511 Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law
- 2515 Peeling Onions
- 2516 Necessities of Life
- 2518 "I Am in Danger—Sir—"
- 2519 Orion
- 2520 Study of History
- 2521 Planetarium
- 2522 *from* Shooting Script
- 2522 *from* Part I: 11/69–2/70

3.; 5.; 9.: Newsreel; 10.; 13.; 14.

- 2526 Trying to Talk with a Man
- 2527 Diving into the Wreck
- 2530 Translations
- 2531 From a Survivor
- 2532 Upper Broadway
- 2532 Grandmothers

2534 *Gary Snyder (b. 1930)*

- 2536 This Poem Is for Bear
- 2537 Riprap
- 2538 Sixth-Month Song in the Foothills
- 2539 Trail Crew Camp at Bear Valley, 9000 Feet
- 2539 Nansen
- 2540 Looking at Pictures to Be Put Away
- 2540 I Went into the Maverick Bar
- 2541 The Call of the Wild
- 2543 Two Fawns That Didn't See the Light This Spring

2544 *Sylvia Plath (1932–1963)*

- 2546 Black Rook in Rainy Weather
- 2547 The Colossus
- 2548 The Hanging Man
- 2548 Parliament Hill Fields
- 2550 Morning Song
- 2551 Blackberrying
- 2551 The Moon and the Yew Tree
- 2552 Crossing the Water
- 2553 The Bee Meeting
- 2555 The Arrival of the Bee Box
- 2556 Daddy

- 2558 Medusa
 2560 Ariel
 2561 Poppies in October
 2561 Lady Lazarus
 2564 Death & Co.
 2565 Sheep in Fog
 2566 Kindness
 2567 Words
 2567 Edge
 2568 Winter Trees
 2569 Child

2571 The Literature of Contemporary America: Prose

- 2578 *Grace Paley (b. 1922)*
 2580 A Conversation with My Father
- 2583 *William Kennedy (b. 1928)*
 2584 from Ironweed
 2584 I
- 2595 *Harold Brodkey (b. 1930)*
 2596 Verona: A Young Woman Speaks
- 2600 *John McPhee (b. 1931)*
 2602 from Coming into the Country
- 2614 *Toni Morrison (b. 1931)*
 2616 from Song of Solomon
 2616 from Chapter 1
- 2625 *Tom Wolfe (b. 1931)*
 2626 from The Right Stuff
 2626 from Chapter 2
- 2637 *Robert Stone (b. 1937)*
 2638 from A Flag for Sunrise
- 2644 *Rodolfo A. Anaya (b. 1937)*
 2645 B. Traven Is Alive and Well in Cuernavaca