Reading List 2015-2016 – Genre Exam: Poetic Elegy
(Note: All students must take this exam, which is the take-home exam.)

MEDIEVAL

“The Ruin” (manuscript late 10th century)
“The Wanderer” (manuscript late 10th century)
Anon., "Where ben they before us were." (13th century)
Anon., "Wynter wakeneth al my care" (early 14th century)
Chaucer, The Book of the Duchess, lines 443-513 (c.1370)

RENAISSANCE

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
“Wyatt resteth here” (1542)

John Donne
“A Funerall Elegie” (1611)

Henry King
“The Exequy” (c. 1624; printed 1657)

Milton
“Lycidas” (1637; first printed 1638; revised version printed 1645)

RESTORATION/18C

Katherine Philips
“In Memory of F.P.” (c. 1660)

Jonathan Swift
“A Satirical Elegy of the Death of a late Famous General” (1722)

Thomas Gray
“Elegy written in a Country Churchyard” (1751)
ROMANTIC

Robert Burns
“Poor Mailie’s Elegy” (1786)

Charlotte Smith
“On Passing over a Dreary Tract…” (1784)

William Wordsworth
“At the Grave of Burns” (1803, 1842)

William Wordsworth
“In Memory of my Brother” (1805, 1842)

VICTORIAN

Charlotte Bronte
“On the Death of Emily Jane Bronte” (1848)

Matthew Arnold
“Haworth Churchyard” (1855)

Algernon Charles Swinburne
"Ave Atque Vale" (1868)

Oscar Wilde
“Requiescat” (1881)

MODERN BRITISH

Auden
“In Memory of W. B. Yeats.” (1939)

Stevie Smith
“Not Waving but Drowning” (1957)

Philip Larkin
"Aubade" (1977)

EARLY AMERICAN

Anne Bradstreet
"On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet” (1678)
Edgar Allan Poe
“Annabel Lee” (1849)

Walt Whitman
"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d" (1865-1866)

Paul Laurence Dunbar
“Frederick Douglass" (1895)

LATE AMERICAN

H.D.
“Eurydice”(1915)

Robert Frost
“Provide, Provide” (1936)

Elizabeth Bishop
"Aubade and Elegy" (begun in 1969. Never completed or published in her lifetime)

Robert Hayden

Frank Bidart
“Ellen West” (1983)

Kathleen Ossip
“Elegies” (2013)

Joy Harjo
“When the World as we Knew it Ended” (2002)

Secondary Sources


