

CREATIVE WRITING LIST - Fiction

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.

Achebe, Chinua

Things Fall Apart

Agnon, S.Y.

Twenty-One Stories

Anderson, Sherwood

Winesburg, Ohio

Atwood, Margaret

Dancing Girls and Other Stories

The Handmaid's Tale

Austen, Jane

Pride and Prejudice

Emma

Babel, Isaac

Red Cavalry, especially "My First Goose"

Baldwin, James

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Giovanni's Room

Barnes, Djuna

Nightwood

Barth, John

The Floating Opera

Lost in the Funhouse

Barthelme, Donald

Come Back, Dr. Caligari

Sixty Stories

Barthelme, Frederick

Moon Deluxe

Two Against One

Barthelme, Steven

And He Tells the Little Horse the Whole Story

Beattie, Ann

Secrets and Surprises

The Burning House

Picturing Will

Borges, Jorge Luis

Labyrinths

Bowles, Paul

The Sheltering Sky

Boyle, T.C.

World's End

Collected Stories

Bulgakov, Mikhail

The Master and Margarita

Butler, Octavia

Bloodchild

Calvino, Italo

Invisible Cities

Camus, Albert

The Plague

The Stranger

Capote, Truman

In Cold Blood

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Carver, Raymond

Cathedral

Will You Please Be Quiet, Please
What We Talk About When We Talk About Love

Cather, Willa

My Antonia
The Professor's House

Chandler, Raymond

Farewell, My Lovely
The Long Goodbye

Cheever, John

The Stories of John Cheever, especially "The Five-Forty-Eight" and "The Swimmer"

Chekhov, Anton

Selected Stories, especially "The Lady with the Pet Dog" and "In the Cart"
The Cherry Orchard and Other Plays

Cisneros, Sandra

The House on Mango Street

Coetzee, J.M.

Waiting for the Barbarians

Conrad, Joseph

Nostromo
Lord Jim
"Heart of Darkness"
The Secret Agent

Coover, Robert

The Public Burning
Going for a Beer: Selected Short Fictions

Cunningham, Michael

The Hours

Didion, Joan

Play It as It Lays
A Book of Common Prayer

DeLillo, Don

White Noise

The Names

Doctorow, E.L.

Ragtime

Dos Passos, John

USA

Dostoevsky, Fyodor

Notes from Underground

Crime and Punishment

Dubus, Andre

Selected Stories

Ellison, Ralph

Invisible Man

Erdrich, Louise

Tracks

Everett, Percival

Erasure

Faulkner, William

The Sound and the Fury

Go Down, Moses, especially “The Bear”

Absalom, Absalom!

Collected Stories

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

The Great Gatsby

The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald

Ford, Madox Ford

The Good Soldier

Flaubert, Gustave

Madame Bovary

Fowles, John

The French Lieutenant’s Woman

Gaines, Ernest J.

A Lesson Before Dying

Gaitskill, Mary

Bad Behavior

Gardner, John

Grendel

Gass, William

In the Heart of the Heart of the Country

Genet, Jean

Our Lady of the Flowers

Gogol, Nikolai

Dead Souls

Golding, William

Lord of the Flies

Gordimer, Nadine

July's People

Greene, Graham

The Quiet American

The Power and the Glory

Hannah, Barry

Airships

Hardy, Thomas

Jude the Obscure

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Heller, Joseph

Catch-22

Hemingway, Ernest

The Sun Also Rises

A Farewell to Arms

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

Hempel, Amy

Collected Stories

Hurston, Zora Neale

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Ishiguro, Kazuo

Never Let Me Go

The Remains of the Day

James, Henry

The Portrait of a Lady

The Golden Bowl

The Ambassadors

Johnson, Denis

Fiskadoro

Jesus' Son

Joyce, James

Dubliners

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Ulysses

Kafka, Franz

The Complete Stories, especially "The Metamorphosis," "In the Penal Colony," and "A Hunger Artist"

The Trial

The Castle

Kerouac, Jack

On the Road

Kincaid, Jamaica

Annie John

At the Bottom of the River

Kingston, Maxine Hong

The Woman Warrior

Lowry, Malcolm

Under the Volcano

Mailer, Norman

The Naked and the Dead

Mann, Thomas

Death in Venice

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia

One Hundred Years of Solitude

Maupassant, Guy de

A Parisian Affair and Other Stories

McCarthy, Cormac

Blood Meridian

The Road

Suttree

McCullers, Carson

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

The Ballad of the Sad Cafe

McPherson, James Alan

Elbow Room

Melville, Herman

Moby-Dick

Miller, Henry

Tropic of Cancer

Moore, Lorrie

Self-Help

Morrison, Toni

Beloved

The Bluest Eye

Sula

Munro, Alice

Runaway

Nabokov, Vladimir

Lolita

Pale Fire

Oates, Joyce Carol

High Lonesome

O'Brien, Edna

The Country Girls

O'Brien, Tim

The Things They Carried

O'Connor, Flannery

A Good Man is Hard to Find

Wise Blood

Ondaatje, Michael

The English Patient

Ozick, Cynthia

Collected Stories

Paley, Grace

Collected Stories

Pynchon, Thomas

Gravity's Rainbow

The Crying of Lot 49

Rhys, Jean

Wide Sargasso Sea

Robinson, Marilynne

Housekeeping

Roth, Henry

Call It Sleep

Roth, Philip

Goodbye, Columbus

Rushdie, Salman

The Satanic Verses

Salinger, J.D.

The Catcher in the Rye
Nine Stories

Salter, James
Dusk and Other Stories
Light Years

Sartre, Jean-Paul
No Exit

Sebald, W.G.
Austerlitz
The Rings of Saturn

Silko, Leslie Marmon
Ceremony

Singer, Isaac Bashevis
Collected Stories, especially “Gimpel the Fool” and “The Magician of Lublin”

Smiley, Jane
A Thousand Acres
The Age of Grief

Smith, Zadie
White Teeth
On Beauty

Sterne, Laurence
Tristram Shandy

Thackeray, William
Vanity Fair

Tolstoy, Leo
War and Peace
Anna Karenina
The Death of Ivan Ilych

Turgenev, Ivan
Fathers and Sons

Vonnegut, Kurt

Slaughterhouse Five

Wallace, David Foster

Infinite Jest

Waugh, Evelyn

Brideshead Revisited

Welty, Eudora

Collected Stories

West, Nathanael

The Day of the Locust

Miss Lonelyhearts

Wharton, Edith

The Age of Innocence

Ethan Frome

The House of Mirth

White, Edmund

The Farewell Symphony

Williams, Joy

The Visiting Privilege

Wolff, Tobias

The Barracks Thief

This Boy's Life

Woolf, Virginia

To the Lighthouse

Mrs. Dalloway

A Room of One's Own

Selected Essays

Wright, Richard

Native Son

NON-FICTION

Abrams, M.H.

The Mirror and the Lamp

Adorno, Theodor

Aesthetic Theory

Barry, Lynda

What It Is

Barthes, Roland

Mythologies

Baudrillard, Jean

Simulacra and Simulation

Baxter, Charles

Burning Down the House

de Beauvoir, Simone

The Second Sex

Booth, Wayne

A Rhetoric of Fiction

Bloom, Harold

The Anxiety of Influence

Fanon, Franz

The Wretched of the Earth

Freud, Sigmund

Civilization and its Discontents

Frye, Northrop

Anatomy of Criticism

Fussell, Paul

The Great War and Modern Memory

Gass, William

Fiction and the Figures of Life

On Being Blue

Gardner, John

The Art of Fiction

Hills, Rust

Writing in General and the Short Story in Particular

Hitchens, Christopher

Arguably

Marx, Karl

The German Ideology

Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844

Nietzsche, Friedrich

The Birth of Tragedy

Beyond Good and Evil

O'Connor, Flannery

Mystery and Manners

Orwell, George

Homage to Catalonia

Collected Essays, especially "Inside the Whale," "Politics and the English Language," "Why I Write"

Percy, Walker

The Message in a Bottle

Roethke, Theodore

Straw for the Fire

Ruskin, John

Modern Painters

Said, Edward W.

Orientalism

Imperialism and Culture

Shklovsky, Viktor

"Art as Technique"

Singer, Peter

Animal Liberation

Sontag, Susan

“Regarding the Pain of Others,” “On Photography,” “Against Interpretation”

Trilling, Lionel

The Liberal Imagination

Walker, Alice

The Color Purple

Wallace, David Foster

Consider the Lobster

Welty, Eudora

The Eye of the Story

Wilde, Oscar

De Profundis and Other Prison Writings

Williams, Raymond

The Country and the City

Wilson, Edmund

Patriotic Gore

Wood, James

How Fiction Works

Classic and contemporary texts, as well as drama, may be added in consultation with the student’s Committee Chair. Examples include:

Classic texts: *The Book of Job*, Giovanni Boccaccio’s *The Decameron*, Voltaire’s *Candide*, Montaigne’s *Essays*, Goethe’s *The Sorrows of Young Werther*

Contemporary texts: Carmen Maria Machado’s *Her Body and Other Parties*, Justin Torres’ *We The Animals*, Jamel Brinkley’s *A Lucky Man*

Drama: Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, Beckett’s *Endgame* and *Waiting for Godot*, Brecht’s *Mother Courage and Her Children*, Ionesco’s *Rhinoceros*, Ruhl’s *Eurydice*