

**INDEPENDENT READING LIST
ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
2009 - 2010**

Your independent reading selections must be made from the list below, unless you receive approval directly from your teacher. Feel free to select other titles by the authors listed.

For the list below, the accompanying numbers indicate the relative complexity of language and maturity of content.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3
Most accessible Most Challenging

Poetry—Choose anthologies of any of the following poets.

Bishop, Elizabeth: Published poems exploring the physical world from the Forties to the Seventies; Poet Laureate of the United States from 1949 to 1950.

Cassady, Neal: Beat Poet of the 1950's.

Cisneros, Sandra: Contemporary poet, often focusing on her Latina heritage.

Collins, Billy: Very accessible poems on various subjects; U.S. Poet Laureate 2001.

Dickinson, Emily: Great American poet of the mid-nineteenth century.

Di Prima, Diane: Beat poet of the 1950's.

Frost, Robert: Great American modernist poet of the early 20th century; meditations on universal themes; New England landscape.

Ginsberg, Allen: Leading figure of the Beat movement in the 1950's; published Howl in 1956

Homer. The Iliad: Greek epic describing the Trojan War.

Hughes, Langston: Great American poet of the Harlem Renaissance.

McClure, Michael: Beat poet of the 1950's.

Oliver, Mary: Contemporary American poet; deep insights into the natural world.

Pinsky, Robert: Contemporary American poet; focuses on the individual and society; United States Poet Laureate 1997.

Poe, Edgar Allan: A Romantic era poet known for his macabre and morbid themes.

Plath, Sylvia: Known for her confessional poetry and uncanny use of metaphor. Also known for her novel, The Bell Jar.

Rumi: A 13th century Islamic poet; focuses on animals and plants; regarded for his ability to direct others towards good conduct and union with Allah.

Shakespeare, William: Known for not only his play, but also for his beautifully crafted, classic collection of sonnets about love and life

Shakur, Tupac (1): The Rose That Grew From Concrete: Known for his rap-style poetry.

Strand, Mark: The fourth Poet Laureate of the United States (1996-1997), Strand wrote poems on subjects ranging from dark and terrible wrestling with one's fears and alter egos to joyous celebrations of life and light. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1999.

St. Vincent Millay, Edna: In the immediate post-World War I era, Millay emerged as a major figure in the cultural life of Greenwich Village, when the Village served as an incubator of every important American literary, artistic, and political movement of the period. As part of this milieu, Millay's work and life came to represent the modern, liberated woman of the Jazz age, free of the restrictions of the past.

Waldman, Anne: Waldman is one of the most interesting members of the post-Beat poetry community. Her confluence of Buddhist concerns and thought-paths with sources of physicality and anger is particularly impressive. Her goal: to speak against, about, around and through the all-pervasive forces of Western patriarchy and its many manifestations.

Whitman, Walt. Leaves of Grass. Great 19th century American poet; celebrated the individual.