

BAN 4995 – LITERATURE COMPLEX EXAM

READING LIST

Early literature

Medieval texts

Beowulf

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Everyman / Mankind **OR** *The Second Shepherds' Play*

Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*: The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale **OR** The Pardoner's Tale **OR** The Miller's Tale

Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*: General Prologue

Shakespeare's plays

Shakespeare: *As you like it* **OR** *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Shakespeare: *Hamlet* **OR** *Macbeth*

Shakespeare: *Richard III* **OR** *Julius Caesar*

Shakespeare: *The Tempest*

John Milton

Paradise Lost: Book I and Book IX **OR** Book II and Book IV

Poems

The Seafarer **OR** The Wanderer

Caedmon's Hymn

Christopher Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd to his Love

Sir Walter Raleigh: The Nymph's Reply

John Donne: The Flea

John Donne: Batter my Heart

Andrew Marvell: To His Coy Mistress

William Shakespeare: Sonnet 1, 17, 53, 106, 130

18th and 19th Centuries

Novels:

Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* **OR** Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver's Travels* – Book I and IV

Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre* **OR** *Wuthering Heights*

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Short Fiction

Washington Irving: Rip Van Winkle

Edgar Allan Poe: The Tell-Tale Heart **OR** The Black Cat

Herman Melville: Bartleby the Scrivener **OR** Benito Cereno

Poetry

Alexander Pope: *The Rape of the Lock* – Canto I:121–148

Edgar Allan Poe: The Raven

Walt Whitman: Song of Myself – sections 1–21, 24, 52

Emily Dickinson: I'm Nobody! Who are you?, Because I could not stop for death

William Blake: The Lamb, The Tyger, Mock on, Mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau
William Wordsworth: Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey
S. T. Coleridge: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
P. B. Shelley: Ode to the West Wind
John Keats: Ode on a Grecian Urn **OR** Ode to a Nightingale

20th Century

Novels

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*
Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway* **OR** *To the Lighthouse*
Kazuo Ishiguro: *The Remains of the Day*
F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
Kurt Vonnegut: *Slaughterhouse Five*

American Short fiction

William Faulkner: A Rose for Emily
Ernest Hemingway: Hills Like White Elephants, The Snows of Kilimanjaro
Flannery O'Connor: A Good Man is Hard to Find **OR** Good Country People
Raymond Carver: What We Talk About When We Talk About Love

Drama

Samuel Beckett: *Waiting for Godot* **OR** Harold Pinter: *The Birthday Party*
Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Eugene O'Neill: *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Poetry

Thomas Hardy: Convergence of the Twain, Hap
W. B. Yeats: The Second Coming, Easter 1916
T. S. Eliot: The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
Philip Larkin: Church Going, High Windows
Seamus Heaney: Digging
Robert Frost: Design
William Carlos Williams: The Red Wheelbarrow, The Young Housewife
Allen Ginsberg: A Supermarket in California
Sylvia Plath: Daddy, Lady Lazarus

Valid as of June 2026