

## Contents

INTRODUCTION	15
EMILY DICKINSON, 1830-86	31
'Success is counted sweetest'	34
'I like to see it lap the miles'	34
'What soft, cherubic creatures'	35
'My life closed twice before its close'	35
'A bird came down the walk'	36
'Safe in their alabaster chambers'	36
'Because I could not stop for Death'	37
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON, 1869-1935	38
Reuben Bright	40
Miniver Cheevy	40
Mr Flood's Party	41
New England	43
EDGAR LEE MASTERS, 1869-1950	44
The Hill	45
Sersmith the Dentist	46
Butch Weldy	47
AMY LOWELL, 1874-1925	49
Meeting-House Hill	50
ROBERT FROST, 1875-	51
After Apple-Picking	53
Birches	54
The Cow in Apple-Time	56
Fire and Ice	56
The Axe-Helve	57
CARL SANDBURG, 1878-	61
Limited	63
Psalm of Those Who Go Forth Before Daylight	63
'The people know what the land knows' (From <i>The People, Yes</i> )	64
VACHEL LINDSAY, 1879-1931	67
A Negro Sermon: Simon Legree	68
The Flower-Fed Buffaloes	70

WALLACE STEVENS, 1879-	71
The Plot against the Giant	74
Sunday Morning	74
Bantams in Pine-Woods	78
Credences of Summer	79
Two poems from 'Notes Towards a Supreme Fiction'	
( <i>It must be Abstract</i> )	
'The first idea was not our own'	84
'The lion roars at the enraging desert'	85
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS, 1883-	86
To Waken an Old Lady	88
'By the road to the contagious hospital'	89
The Yachts	90
The Library (From <i>Paterson</i> , Book III)	91
ELINOR WYLIE, 1885-1928	94
Wild Peaches	95
EZRA POUND, 1885-	97
Sestina: Altaforte	100
The Garden	102
The Temperaments	102
Old Idea of Choan by Rosoriu	103
E.P. Ode pour L'Élection de son Sépulchre (From	
<i>Hugh Selwyn Mauberley</i> )	104
'With usura hath no man a house of good stone'	
( <i>Canto XLV</i> )	104
'What thou lovest well remains' (From <i>Canto LXXXI</i> )	106
JOHN GOULD FLETCHER, 1886-1950	108
Irradiations: V and X	109
H.D., 1886-	110
At Baia	111
Helen	112
MARIANNE MOORE, 1887-	113
Poetry	114
Critics and Connoisseurs	116
Smooth Gnarled Crape Myrtle	117
His Shield	119

ROBINSON JEFFERS, 1887-	120
Apology for Bad Dreams	122
Hurt Hawks	125
Love the Wild Swan	126
The Eye	127
T. S. ELIOT, 1888-	128
The 'Boston Evening Transcript'	132
The Dry Salvages	132
JOHN CROWE RANSOM, 1888-	140
Dead Boy	142
Here Lies a Lady	142
Antique Harvesters	143
Dog	145
Painted Head	146
CONRAD AIKEN, 1889-	148
'Keep in the heart the journal nature keeps' (From <i>Preludes for Memnon</i> )	150
'This image or another, this quick choosing' (From <i>Time in the Rock</i> )	151
Voyage to Spring	151
EDNA ST VINCENT MILLAY, 1892-1950	156
'What lips my lips have kissed, and where, and why'	157
'Hearing your words, and not a word among them'	157
JOHN PEALE BISHOP, 1892-1944	158
Speaking of Poetry	159
Ode	160
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH, 1892-	163
Memorial Rain	165
You, Andrew Marvell	166
'And we marched against them there in the next spring' (The Fifteenth Book from <i>Conquistador</i> )	168
Voyage West	169
H. PHELPS PUTNAM, 1894-1948	171
Hasbrouck and the Rose	172
MARK VAN DOREN, 1894-	174
His Trees	174
As Birds	176



E. E. CUMMINGS, 1894-	177
Chanson Innocente	179
Poem, or Beauty Hurts Mr Vinal	180
'my sweet old etcetera'	182
'somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond'	183
'this little bride & groom are'	184
'anyone lived in a pretty how town'	184
EDMUND WILSON, 1895-	186
The Omelette of A. MacLeish	187
LOUISE BOGAN, 1897-	191
Simple Autumnal	191
The Dream	192
STEPHEN VINCENT BENÉT, 1898-1943	193
American Names	194
HORACE GREGORY, 1898-	196
First Monologue from <i>The Passion of M'Phail</i>	197
HART CRANE, 1899-1932	199
Voyages: I, II, and III	201
The Tunnel (From <i>The Bridge</i> )	203
The Broken Tower	208
ALLEN TATE, 1899-	210
Ode to the Confederate Dead	211
The Wolves	214
LÉONIE ADAMS, 1899-	215
Grapes Making	215
THEODORE SPENCER, 1902-49	217
Epitaph	217
KENNETH FEARING, 1902-	219
Dirge	220
OGDEN NASH, 1902-	222
The Purist	222
Song to be Sung by the Father of Infant Female Children	223
MERRILL MOORE, 1903-	225
Why He Stroked the Cats	226
R. P. BLACKMUR, 1904-	227
October Frost	228

RICHARD EBERHART, 1904-	229
The Groundhog	229
The Fury of Aerial Bombardment	231
ROBERT PENN WARREN, 1905-	232
History Among the Rocks (From <i>Kentucky Mountain Farm</i> )	233
End of Season	234
Pursuit	236
THEODORE ROETHKE, 1908-	238
Dolour	239
The Shape of the Fire	239
ROBERT FITZGERALD, 1910-	243
Sympathy of Peoples	243
WINFIELD TOWNLEY SCOTT, 1910-	245
The U.S. Sailor with the Japanese Skull	245
ELIZABETH BISHOP, 1911-	247
The Man-Moth	247
KENNETH PATCHEN, 1911-	250
The Character of Love seen as a Search for the Lost	250
DELMORE SCHWARTZ, 1913-	252
The Ballet of the Fifth Year	253
'In the naked bed, in Plato's cave'	254
'The heavy bear who goes with me'	255
MURIEL RUKEYSER, 1913-	257
The Blood is Justified	258
Eyes of Night-Time	260
KARL SHAPIRO, 1913-	261
Auto Wreck	262
The Twins	263
Waitress	264
From Essay on Rime	265
Homecoming	266
RANDALL JARRELL, 1914-	268
The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner	269
The Knight, Death, and the Devil	269
A Girl in a Library	271

JOHN BERRYMAN, 1914-	275
The Ball Poem	276
Whether there is Sorrow in the Demons	276
JOHN FREDERICK NIMS, 1914-	278
Love Poem	278
Penny Arcade	279
A Quiet Night	280
PETER VIERECK, 1916-	282
To a Sinister Potato	283
Which of Us Two?	284
JOHN MALCOLM BRINNIN, 1916-	285
Views of the Favourite Colleges	286
JOHN CIARDI, 1916-	287
Elegy	288
ROBERT LOWELL, 1917-	290
The Exile's Return	291
The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket	292
HOWARD NEMEROV, 1920-	297
The Gulls	297
RICHARD WILBUR, 1921-	299
In the Elegy Season	300
The Death of a Toad	301
Still, Citizen Sparrow	301
Beasts	302
ROBERT HORAN, 1922-	304
Suppose We Kill a King	304
JAMES MERRILL, 1926-	306
The Grape Cure	306
W. S. MERWIN, 1927-	308
Two Horses	309
READING LIST	311
INDEX TO FIRST LINES	317