

# Twenty-One Poems for AP Literature and Composition

The selections within this listing represent frequently taught poets and poems in AP English Literature and Composition.



1. Matthew Arnold: "Dover Beach"

[The Poem](#)

[About this Poet from the Poetry Foundation](#)

[Arnold's "Dover Beach": A Commentary from Victorian Web](#)

[Dover Beach](#) from *Representative Poetry Online*

2. Elizabeth Bishop: "In the Waiting Room"

[The Poem](#)

[Elizabeth Bishop from Voices and Visions](#)

[On "In the Waiting Room" from Modern American Poetry](#)

3. Gwendolyn Brooks: "We Real Cool"

[The Poem](#)

[Tyehimba Jess on "We Real Cool" from the American Academy Poets](#)

[The Impact of a Poem's Line Breaks: Enjambment and Gwendolyn Brooks' "We Real Cool"](#)

Using simple, illuminative paper-cut puppetry, this enchanting video imagines the moment of witness that inspired Gwendolyn Brooks to write her landmark poem, "[We Real Cool](#)." Created by [Manual Cinema in association with Crescendo Literary](#), with story by [Eve Ewing and Nate Marshall](#) and music by [Jamila Woods and Ayanna Woods](#).

4. Robert Browning: "My Last Duchess"

[The Poem](#)

[Browning's "My Last Duchess" and Dramatic Monologue](#)

[My Last Duchess](#) audio clip from the *American Academy of Poets*

["My Last Duchess" from Representative Poetry Online](#)

5. Emily Dickinson: "Safe in their Alabaster Chambers" (124)

[The Poem](#)

[Emily Dickinson](#) from *Voices and Visions*

["Safe in their Alabaster Chambers" \(216\)](#) audio clip from the *American Academy of Poets*

[Letters from Emily Dickinson: "Will you be my preceptor?"](#)

[Lesson 2: Responding to Emily Dickinson: Poetic Analysis](#)

6. John Donne: "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"

[The Poem](#) (includes audio clip)

[A Brief Guide to Metaphysical Poets](#) from the *American Academy of Poets*

["A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" from Representative Poetry Online](#)

7. T.S. Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

["The Poem](#) (with audio option)

[Introduction to Modernist Poetry: Lesson 3: Navigating Modernism with J. Alfred Prufrock](#)

[“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”](#) from *Representative Poetry Online*

[T. S. Eliot](#) from *Voices and Visions*

8. Carolyn Forché: “The Colonel”

[The Poem](#) (with audio option)

[Carolyn Forché](#) from *Modern American Poetry*

9. Robert Frost: “Mending Wall”

[The Poem](#) (with guide link)

[Robert Frost's "Mending Wall": A Marriage of Poetic Form and Content](#)

[Robert Frost from Voices and Visions](#)

10. Robert Hayden: “Those Winter Sundays”

[The Poem](#) (with guide link)

[Close Reading Notes for “Those Winter Sundays”](#) from *ReadWriteThink*

11. Langston Hughes: “Let America Be America Again”

[The Poem](#)

[Langston Hughes](#) from *Voices and Visions*

EDSITEment's [Teacher's Guide on Langston Hughes](#)

[Walt Whitman to Langston Hughes: Poems for a Democracy](#)

12. John Keats: “Ode on a Grecian Urn”

[The Poem](#) (with audio option and guide link)

[Ekphrasis: Poetry Confronting Art](#) from the *American Academy of Poets*

[“Ode on a Grecian Urn”](#) from *Romantic Circles*

13. Andrew Marvell: “To His Coy Mistress”

[The Poem](#)

[“To His Coy Mistress”](#) from *Representative Poetry Online*

14. Wilfred Owen: “Dulce et Decorum Est”

[The Poem](#) (with audio option)

[Poetry of The Great War: “From Darkness to Light”?](#)

[Introduction to Modernist Poetry. Lesson 1: Understanding the Context of Modernist Poetry](#)

15. John Crowe Ransom: “Bells for John Whiteside’s Daughter”

[The Poem](#)

[A Brief Guide to the Fugitives](#) from poets.org

[John Crowe Ransom](#) from poets.org

16. William Shakespeare: Sonnets

[Shakespeare’s Sonnets](#) from the *Folger Shakespeare Library*

[Listening to Poetry: Sounds of a Sonnet](#)

[Poetic Form: Sonnet](#) from *American Academy of Poets*

[A Teacher's Guide for Shakespeare](#)

[William Shakespeare](#) from the *Poetry Foundation*

[William Shakespeare: the Sonnets](#) (YouTube)

17. Percy Bysshe Shelley: “Ozymandias”

[The Poem](#) (with audio option and guide link)

[Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) from *Victorian Web*

[“Ozymandias”](#) from *Representative Poetry Online*

18. Wallace Stevens: "Sunday Morning"

[The Poem](#) (with guide link)

[On "Sunday Morning" from Modern American Poetry](#)

[Introduction to Modernist Poetry. Lesson 2: Thirteen Ways of Reading a Modernist Poem](#)

["Sunday Morning" from Representative Poetry Online](#)

19. Dylan Thomas: "Do not go gentle into that good night"

[The Poem](#) (with audio option)

[About this Poet](#) from the Poetry Foundation

[Death in Poetry: A.E. Housman's "To an Athlete Dying Young" and Dylan Thomas' "Do not go gentle into that good night"](#)

20. William Carlos Williams: "Danse Russe"

[The Poem](#)

[Seeing Sense in Photographs and Poems](#)

[William Carlos Williams](#) from *Voices and Visions*

21. William Butler Yeats: "The Second Coming"

[The Poem](#) (with audio option)

[William Butler Yeats](#) from Poetry Foundation

[Yeats: the Life and Works of William Butler Yeats](#) (online interactive from The National Library of Ireland)