



# Contents

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION	xix
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xxiii
<b>American Prose since 1945</b>	
<i>Introduction</i>	1953
<i>Timeline</i>	1964
EUDORA WELTY (1909–2001)	1966
Petrified Man	1967
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (1911–1983)	1976
A Streetcar Named Desire	1979
JOHN CHEEVER (1912–1982)	2041
The Swimmer	2043
BERNARD MALAMUD (1914–1986)	2051
The Magic Barrel	2052
RALPH ELLISON (1914–1994)	2064
Cadillac Flambé	2065
Invisible Man	2077
Prologue	2077
Chapter I [Battle Royal]	2083
SAUL BELLOW (b. 1915)	2093
Looking for Mr. Green	2095
ARTHUR MILLER (b. 1915)	2109
Death of a Salesman	2111
GRACE PALEY (b. 1922)	2176
A Conversation with My Father	2177
KURT VONNEGUT (b. 1922)	2181
Fates Worse Than Death	2183
JAMES BALDWIN (1924–1987)	2190
Going to Meet the Man	2191

FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925–1964)	2203
The Life You Save May Be Your Own	2204
Good Country People	2211
URSULA K. LE GUIN (b. 1929)	2225
Schrödinger's Cat	2226
She Unnames Them	2232
PAULE MARSHALL (b. 1929)	2234
Reena	2235
DONALD BARTHELME (1931–1989)	2247
The Balloon	2248
TONI MORRISON (b. 1931)	2252
Recitatif	2253
JOHN UPDIKE (b. 1932)	2267
Separating	2268
PHILIP ROTH (b. 1933)	2276
Defender of the Faith	2278
AMIRI BARAKA (LEROI JONES) (b. 1934)	2299
Dutchman	2301
An Agony. As Now.	2314
A Poem for Willie Best	2315
Will They Cry When You're Gone, You Bet	2320
N. SCOTT MOMADAY (b. 1934)	2320
The Way to Rainy Mountain	2321
Headwaters	2321
Introduction	2322
IV	2326
XIII	2327
XVII	2327
XXIV	2328
Epilogue	2329
Rainy Mountain Cemetery	2331
GERALD VIZENOR (b. 1934)	2331
Almost Browne	2332
STEPHEN DIXON (b. 1936)	2337
Time to Go	2339
RUDOLFO A. ANAYA (b. 1937)	2348
The Christmas Play	2350
THOMAS PYNCHON (b. 1937)	2355
Entropy	2357

RAYMOND CARVER (1938–1988)	2367
Cathedral	2368
ISHMAEL REED (b. 1938)	2378
The Last Days of Louisiana Red	2380
Chapter 36 [Mary Dalton's Dream]	2380
Neo-HooDoo Manifesto	2384
TONI CADE BAMBARA (1939–1995)	2388
Medley	2389
MAXINE HONG KINGSTON (b. 1940)	2401
Tripmaster Monkey	2402
1. Trippers and Askers	2402
DIANE GLANCY (b. 1941)	2428
Jack Wilson or Wovoka and Christ My Lord	2428
Polar Breath	2431
GLORIA ANZALDÚA (b. 1942)	2434
<i>La conciencia de la Mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness</i>	2435
How to Tame a Wild Tongue	2446
El sonavabitché	2455
BARRY HANNAH (b. 1942)	2459
Midnight and I'm Not Famous Yet	2460
ALICE WALKER (b. 1944)	2468
Everyday Use	2469
ANNIE DILLARD (b. 1945)	2475
Holy the Firm	2476
ANN BEATTIE (b. 1947)	2495
Weekend	2496
DAVID MAMET (b. 1947)	2508
Glengarry Glen Ross	2509
LESLIE MARMON SILKO (b. 1948)	2542
Lullaby	2543
JUDITH ORTIZ COFER (b. 1952)	2550
The Witch's Husband	2551
SANDRA CISNEROS (b. 1954)	2556
My Lucy Friend Who Smells Like Corn	2556
Barbie-Q	2558
Mericans	2559

LOUISE ERDRICH (b. 1954)	2561
Fleur	2562
RICHARD POWERS (b. 1957)	2572
From Galatea 2.2	2573
SUZAN-LORI PARKS (b. 1964)	2606
The America Play	2607
<b>American Poetry since 1945</b>	
Introduction	2637
Timeline	2650
STANLEY KUNITZ (b. 1905)	2652
Father and Son	2653
After the Last Dynasty	2654
Quinnapoxet	2655
The Wellfleet Whale	2656
LORINE NIEDECKER (1903–1970)	2659
Poet's Work	2661
[I married]	2661
My Life by Water	2662
Lake Superior	2663
Watching Dancers on Skates	2666
[Well, spring overflows the land]	2666
ROBERT PENN WARREN (1905–1989)	2667
Bearded Oaks	2669
Audubon	2670
I. Was Not the Lost Dauphin	2670
VI. Love and Knowledge	2671
VII. Tell Me a Story	2671
American Portrait: Old Style	2672
Acquaintance with Time in Early Autumn	2675
Mortal Limit	2677
After the Dinner Party	2677
GEORGE OPPEN (1908–1984)	2678
Party on Shipboard	2679
[She lies, hip high]	2680
The Hills	2680
Workman	2681
Psalm	2681
From Of Being Numerous	2682
Anniversary Poem	2689
THEODORE ROETHKE (1908–1963)	2690

Weed Puller	2692
Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartz	2693
My Papa's Waltz	2694
Night Crow	2694
The Lost Son	2695
The Waking	2699
I Knew a Woman	2700
The Far Field	2700
Wish for a Young Wife	2703
In a Dark Time	2703
CHARLES OLSON (1910–1970)	2704
THE MAXIMUS POEMS	2706
I, Maximus of Gloucester, to You	2706
Maximus, to Himself	2709
[When do poppies bloom]	2711
Celestial Evening, October 1967	2711
ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)	2713
The Unbeliever	2714
The Fish	2715
Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance	2717
The Bight	2718
At the Fishhouses	2719
Questions of Travel	2721
The Armadillo	2723
Sestina	2724
In the Waiting Room	2725
The Moose	2727
One Art	2731
ROBERT HAYDEN (1913–1980)	2731
Middle Passage	2733
Homage to the Empress of the Blues	2738
Those Winter Sundays	2738
The Night-Blooming Cereus	2739
Free Fantasia: Tiger Flowers	2740
RANDALL JARRELL (1914–1965)	2742
90 North	2743
The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner	2744
Second Air Force	2744
Next Day	2746
Well Water	2747
Thinking of the Lost World	2747
JOHN BERRYMAN (1914–1972)	2749
From Homage to Mistress Bradstreet	2751
THE DREAM SONGS	2757

- 29 ("There sat down, once, a thing on Henry's heart") 2758  
 40 ("I'm scared a lonely. Never see my son") 2759  
 45 ("He stared at ruin. Ruin stared straight back") 2759  
 384 ("The marker slants, flowerless, day's almost done") 2760  
 385 ("My daughter's heavier. Light leaves are flying") 2760

- ROBERT LOWELL (1917-1977)** 2761  
 Colloquy in Black Rock 2763  
 The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket 2764  
 Mr. Edwards and the Spider 2768  
 My Last Afternoon with Uncle Devereux Winslow 2769  
 Memories of West Street and Lepke 2773  
 Skunk Hour 2774  
 Night Sweat 2775  
 For the Union Dead 2776

- GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917-2000)** 2778  
 A STREET IN BRONZEVILLE 2779  
 kitchenette building 2779  
 the mother 2780  
 a song in the front yard 2780  
 The White Troops Had Their Orders But the Negroes Looked Like  
 Men 2781  
 The Womanhood 2781  
 The Children of the Poor (II) 2781  
 We Real Cool 2782  
 The Bean Eaters 2782  
 A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi. Meanwhile a Mississippi  
 Mother Burns Bacon 2783  
 The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till 2786  
 The Blackstone Rangers 2786  
 To the Diaspora 2788  
 The Coora Flower 2789

- ROBERT DUNCAN (1919-1988)** 2789  
 Often I Am Permitted to Return to a Meadow 2791  
 A Poem Beginning with a Line by Pindar 2792  
 Achilles' Song 2799  
 Interrupted Forms 2801

- RICHARD WILBUR (b. 1921)** 2802  
 The Beautiful Changes 2803  
 The Death of a Toad 2803  
 Ceremony 2804  
 "A World without Objects Is a Sensible Emptiness" 2804  
 Years-End 2805  
 Love Calls Us to the Things of This World 2806  
 The Mind-Reader 2807

- JAMES DICKEY (1923-1997)**  
 Drowning with Others 2812  
 The Heaven of Animals 2813  
 Falling 2814

- DENISE LEVERTOV (1923-1997)**  
 To the Snake 2820  
 The Jacob's Ladder 2820  
 In Mind 2821  
 September 1961 2821  
 What Were They Like? 2823  
 Death in Mexico 2823  
 Caedmon 2825

- A. R. AMMONS (1926-2001)** 2826  
 So I Said I Am Ezra 2827  
 Corsons Inlet 2828  
 Easter Morning 2831  
 Singling & Doubling Together 2833  
 From Garbage 2834

- JAMES MERRILL (1926-1995)** 2837  
 An Urban Convalescence 2839  
 The Broken Home 2841  
 Lost in Translation 2844  
 Family Week at Oracle Ranch 2849

- ROBERT CREELEY (b. 1926)** 2854  
 Kore 2856  
 The Door 2857  
 I Know a Man 2859  
 For Love 2859  
 The Messengers 2861  
 The Birds 2862  
 Fathers 2863

- ALLEN GINSBERG (1926-1997)** 2863  
 Howl 2865  
 A Supermarket in California 2872  
 Sunflower Sutra 2873  
 To Aunt Rose 2874  
 On Burroughs' Work 2876  
 Ego Confession 2876

- FRANK O'HARA (1926-1966)** 2878  
 To the Harbormaster 2879  
 Why I Am Not a Painter 2879  
 In Memory of My Feelings 2880  
 A Step Away from Them 2885  
 The Day Lady Died 2886

- GALWAY KINNELL (b. 1927) 2887  
 The Porcupine 2888  
 Blackberry Eating 2891  
 After Making Love We Hear Footsteps 2891  
 Cemetery Angels 2892  
 Neverland 2892
- JOHN ASHBERY (b. 1927) 2894  
 Illustration 2895  
 Soonest Mended 2896  
 Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror 2898  
 Myrtle 2909
- W. S. MERWIN (b. 1927) 2910  
 The Drunk in the Furnace 2911  
 For the Anniversary of My Death 2912  
 For a Coming Extinction 2912  
 Losing a Language 2913  
 Lament for the Makers 2914  
 Ceremony after an Amputation 2920
- JAMES WRIGHT (1927-1980) 2921  
 Autumn Begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio 2923  
 To the Evening Star: Central Minnesota 2923  
 A Blessing 2924  
 A Centenary Ode: Inscribed to Little Crow, Leader of the Sioux  
 Rebellion in Minnesota, 1862 2924  
 With the Shell of a Hermit Crab 2925  
 The Journey 2926
- PHILIP LEVINE (b. 1928) 2927  
 Animals Are Passing from Our Lives 2928  
 Detroit Grease Shop Poem 2929  
 They Feed They Lion 2930  
 Starlight 2930  
 Fear and Fame 2931  
 The Simple Truth 2932
- ANNE SEXTON (1928-1974) 2933  
 The Truth the Dead Know 2934  
 The Starry Night 2934  
 Sylvia's Death 2935  
 Little Girl, My String Bean, My Lovely Woman 2937  
 The Death of the Fathers 2939  
 2. How We Danced 2939  
 3. The Boat 2940
- ADRIENNE RICH (b. 1929) 2941  
 Storm Warnings 2943  
 Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law 2944

- "I Am in Danger—Sir—" 2948  
 A Valediction Forbidding Mourning 2949  
 Diving into the Wreck 2949  
 Power 2951  
 Transcendental Etude 2952
- GARY SNYDER (b. 1930) 2956  
 Milton by Firelight 2957  
 Riprap 2958  
 August on Sourdough, A Visit from Dick Brewer 2959  
 Beneath My Hand and Eye the Distant Hills. Your Body 2959  
 The Blue Sky 2960  
 Straight-Creek—Great Burn 2965  
 Ripples on the Surface 2966
- SYLVIA PLATH (1932-1963) 2967  
 Morning Song 2968  
 Lady Lazarus 2969  
 Ariel 2971  
 Daddy 2972  
 Words 2975  
 Blackberrying 2975  
 Purdah 2976  
 The Applicant 2978  
 Child 2979
- AUDRE LORDE (1934-1992) 2979  
 Coal 2980  
 The Woman Thing 2981  
 Black Mother Woman 2982
- CHARLES WRIGHT (b. 1935) 2983  
 Him 2984  
 Two Stories 2984  
 A Journal of the Year of the Ox 2986  
 12 December 1985 2986  
 Poem Half in the Manner of Li Ho 2987  
 The Appalachian Book of the Dead VI 2988  
 Star Turn II 2989  
 North American Bear 2989
- MARY OLIVER (b. 1935) 2991  
 The Black Snake 2993  
 In Blackwater Woods 2993  
 A Visitor 2994  
 Landscape 2995  
 Poppies 2996  
 Hummingbird Pauses at the Trumpet Vine 2997  
 Alligator Poem 2998

CHARLES SIMIC (b. 1938) 2999  
 Fork 3000  
 Prodigy 3000  
 The Devils 3001  
 The White Room 3001  
 The Tiger 3003  
 A Book Full of Pictures 3004  
 Arriving Celebrities 3005  
 In the Street 3005

MICHAEL S. HARPER (b. 1938) 3006  
 Dear John, Dear Coltrane 3007  
 American History 3008  
 Deathwatch 3009  
 Martin's Blues 3010  
 "Bird Lives": Charles Parker in St. Louis 3010  
 Nightmare Begins Responsibility 3012

ROBERT PINSKY (b. 1940) 3012  
 The Figured Wheel 3014  
 The Street 3016  
 A Woman 3017  
 The Want Bone 3019  
 Shirt 3019  
 At Pleasure Bay 3021

SIMON J. ORTIZ (b. 1941) 3023  
 Passing through Little Rock 3024  
 Earth and Rain, the Plants & Sun 3025  
 Vision Shadows 3026  
 Poems from the Veterans Hospital 3027  
 8:50 AM Ft. Lyons VAH 3027  
 Travelling 3028  
 From From Sand Creek 3028

BILLY COLLINS (b. 1941) 3029  
 Forgetfulness 3030  
 Osso Buco 3031  
 Tuesday, June 4, 1991 3032  
 I Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Art Blakey's Version of  
 "Three Blind Mice" 3034  
 The Night House 3035

LOUISE GLÜCK (b. 1943) 3036  
 The Drowned Children 3038  
 Descending Figure 3038  
 2 The Sick Child 3038  
 3 For My Sister 3039  
 Illuminations 3039  
 Terminal Resemblance 3040

Appearances 3041  
 Vespers 3042

JORIE GRAHAM (b. 1950) 3043  
 The Geese 3044  
 At Luca Signorelli's Resurrection of the Body 3045  
 The Dream of the Unified Field 3048

JOY HARJO (b. 1951) 3053  
 Call It Fear 3054  
 White Bear 3055  
 Summer Night 3056  
 The Flood 3057

RITA DOVE (b. 1952) 3059  
 Geometry 3061  
 Adolescence—I 3061  
 Adolescence—II 3061  
 Adolescence—III 3062  
 Baneker 3062  
 Parsley 3064  
 THOMAS AND BEULAH 3066  
 The Event 3066  
 Straw Hat 3067  
 The Zeppelin Factory 3067  
 Dusting 3068  
 Poem in Which I Refuse Contemplation 3069  
 Heroes 3070  
 Missing 3071  
 Rosa 3071

ALBERTO RÍOS (b. 1952) 3072  
 Madre Sofia 3073  
 Wet Camp 3074  
 Taking Away the Name of a Nephew 3074  
 Advice to a First Cousin 3076  
 Seniors 3077

LORNA DEE CERVANTES (b. 1954) 3078  
 Uncle's First Rabbit 3079  
 For Virginia Chavez 3080  
 Visions of Mexico While at a Writing Symposium in Port Townsend,  
 Washington 3082  
 The Body as Braille 3084

CATHY SONG (b. 1955) 3084  
 The White Porch 3085  
 Beauty and Sadness 3087  
 Lost Sister 3088  
 Chinatown 3090  
 Heaven 3092

LI-YOUNG LEE (b. 1957) 3094  
 The Gift 3094  
 Persimmons 3095  
 Eating Alone 3097  
 Eating Together 3098  
 Mnemonic 3098  
 This Room and Everything in It 3099

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

PERMISSIONS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INDEX

Dear John, Dear Coltrane 3007  
 American History 3008  
 Deathwatch 3009  
 Martin's Blues 3010  
 "Bird Lives": Charles Parker in St. Louis 3010  
 Nightmare Begins Responsibility 3012

ROBERT PINSKY (b. 1940)  
 The Figured Wheel 3014  
 The Street 3016  
 A Woman 3017  
 The Want Bone 3019  
 Shirt 3019  
 At Pleasure Bay 3021

SIMON J. ORTIZ (b. 1941)  
 Passing through Little Rock 3024  
 Earth and Rain, the Plants & Sun 3025  
 Vision Shadows 3026  
 Poems from the Veterans Hospital 3027  
 8:50 AM Ft. Lyons VAH 3027  
 Travelling 3028  
 From From Sand Creek 3028

BILLY COLLINS (b. 1941)  
 Forgetfulness 3030  
 So Buco 3031  
 Tuesday, June 4, 1991 3032  
 Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Arto Lindsay's  
 Visions of Mexico While at a Writing Symposium in Fort Townsend  
 The Night House 3035

ROSE GLÜCK (b. 1943)  
 Drawn Children 3038  
 Standing Figure 3038  
 The Sick Child 3038  
 For My Sister 3039  
 Terminal Resemblance 3040

JORIE GRAHAM (b. 1950)  
 The Geese 3044  
 At Luca Signorelli's Resurrection of the Body 3048  
 The Dream of the United Field 3048

JOY HARJO (b. 1951)  
 Call It Fear 3054  
 White Bear 3055  
 Summer Night 3056  
 The Flood 3057

RITA DOVE (b. 1952)  
 Geometry 3061  
 Adolescence—I 3061  
 Adolescence—II 3061  
 Adolescence—III 3062  
 Banner 3062  
 Parsley 3064  
 THOMAS AND BEULAH 3066  
 The Event 3066  
 Straw Hat 3067  
 The Zeppelin Factory 3067  
 Dusting 3068  
 Poem in Which I Refuse Contemplation 3069  
 Heroes 3070  
 Missing 3071  
 Rosa 3071

ALBERTO RIOS (b. 1952)  
 Made Sofia 3073  
 Wet Camp 3074  
 Taking Away the Name of a Nephew 3074  
 Advice to a First Cousin 3076  
 Seniors 3077

LORNA DEE CERVANTES (b. 1954)  
 Uncle's First Rabbit 3079  
 For Virginia Chavez's "Visions of Mexico While at a Writing Symposium in Fort Townsend"  
 Washington 3082  
 The Body as Braille 3084  
 CATHY SONG (b. 1955)  
 The White Porch 3085  
 Beauty and Sadness 3087  
 Lost Sister 3088  
 Chinatown 3090