

The Wilson 50

The Fifty Most Important Books of American Literature Published Since the End of World War II (1945-1980)

Beat Writers (12)

Poetry:

ALLEN GINSBERG *Howl and Other Poems* (1956)
LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI *A Coney Island of the
Mind* (1958)
ROBERT CREELEY *A Form of Women* (1959)
ROBERT DUNCAN *Selected Poems* (1959)
GREGORY CORSO *Gasoline* (1961)
DENISE LEVERTOV *Here and Now* (1961)
MICHAEL MCCLURE *Dark Brown* (1961)
WILLIAM EVERSON *The Poet is Dead*
GARY SNYDER *Regarding Wave* (1969)

Novels:

JACK KEROUAC *On the Road* (1957)
WILLIAM BURROUGHS *The Naked Lunch* (1959)
DIANE DIPRIMA *Memoirs of a Beatnik* (1969)

Others (38)

Poetry:

EZRA POUND *The Pisan Cantos* (1948)
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS *Paterson* (five parts,
1946, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1958)
LOUIS ZUKOFSKY *A* (A 1-12, 1959; A 13-21, 1969; A
24, 1962; A 22-23; 1975)
JOHN ASHBERRY *Some Trees* (1956)
JOHN BERRYMAN *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet*
(1956)
ELIZABETH BISHOP *Questions of Travel* (1965)
RANDAL JARRELL *Little Friend, Little Friend* (1945)
LEROI JONES *Preface to a Twenty-Volume Suicide Note*
(1961)
GALWAY KINNELL *Body Rags* (1968)
JOHN KNOWLES *A Separate Peace* (1959)
ROBERT LOWELL *Life Studies* (1959)

JAMES MERRILL *Nights and Days* (1966)
HOWARD NEMEROV *Guide to the Ruins* (1950)
FRANK O'HARA *Meditations in an Emergency* (1957)
CHARLES OLSON *The Maximus Poems* (1960)
DIANE WAKOSKI *The Motorcycle Betrayal Poems*
(1971)

JOHN WIENERS *Ace of Pentacles* (1964)
RICHARD WILBUR *Things of This World* (1956)

Plays:

EDWARD ALBEE *The Zoo Story* (1960)
ARTHUR MILLER *The Death of a Salesman* (1949)
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS *A Streetcar Named Desire*
(1947)

Novels and Short Stories:

JOHN BARTH *The Sot-Weed Factor* (1960)
JANE BOWLES *Two Serious Ladies* (1943)
PAUL BOWLES *The Delicate Prey and Other Stories*
(1950)
TRUMAN CAPOTE *The Grass Harp* (1951)
TRUMAN CAPOTE *A Christmas Memory* (1958)
RANDALL JARRELL *Pictures from an Institution* (1954)
JAMES JONES *From Here to Eternity* (1951)
JOHN KNOWLES *A Separate Peace* (1959/60)
JERZY KOSINSKI *The Painted Bird* (1965)
HARPER LEE *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960)
CARSON MCCULLERS *The Member of the Wedding*
(1946)
NORMAN MAILER *The Naked and the Dead* (1948)
W.S. MERWIN *The Miner's Pale Children* (1970)
VLADIMIR NABOKOV *Lolita* (1953)
SYLVIA PLATH (Victoria Luca) *The Bell Jar* (1963)
JAMES PURDY *Malcolm* (1959)
J.D. SALINGER *Nine Stories* (1953)