

*“Resources for the Beginning Poet”*

Lia Greenwell

Bibliography List

Berman, David. *Actual Air*. New York, NY: Open City Books, 1999.

This is the debut collection of poetry from David Berman, a singer-songwriter best known for his work with the indie-rock band The Silver Jews. This first collection was praised by Billy Collins, James Tate, and *The New Yorker*.

Bly, Robert, Harry Martinson, Gunnar Ekelöf, and Tomas Tranströmer. *Friends, You Drank Some Darkness*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1975.

This is a collection of poetry by three Swedish poets--Harry Martinson, Gunnar Ekelöf, and Tomas Tranströmer--selected and translated by American poet Robert Bly. Swedish poet Harry Martinson was the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for some of the poems found in this collection.

Cisneros, Sandra. *Loose Woman*. 1st Edition. New York, NY: Vintage, 1995.

This is the second book of poetry by Sandra Cisneros, who is most famous for her lyrical novel, *The House on Mango Street*, which has become required reading in schools across the country. Her work centers upon Mexican-American experience and the clash and union of these worlds.

Cummings, E.E. *73 poems*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1962.

This is the twelfth collection by celebrated American poet E.E. Cummings. He is best known for his radical play with form, punctuation, spacing, rhyme. He is thought to be one of the most widely read poets in the US.

Davis, Carol. *Into the Arms of Pushkin*. 1st Edition. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2007.

This book of poetry by Carol Davis was the winner of the 2007 T.S. Eliot Prize in poetry. Davis visited my poetry workshop/Book Arts class in Spring 2008, discussing her experience as a senior Fulbright scholar in St. Petersburg, Russia that inspired the poems in this book.

Davis, Peter. *Poet's Bookshelf: Contemporary Poets On Books That Shaped Their Art*. Selma, IN: Barnwood Press, 2005

This book, compiled by Peter Davis, began with a simple question to poets: What books have been most important to you? He ended up with responses from 81 of America's

biggest poets responding. The responses vary from simply a list of books to longer, more essay-like pieces about their influences.

Dickinson, Emily, *Favorite Poems of Emily Dickinson*. Mabel Loomis Todd and T.W. Higginson. New York, NY: Avenel Books, 1978.

This is a collection of Emily Dickinson's favorite of her own poems, as chosen by two of her friends, Mabel Lewis Todd and T.W. Higginson. Dickinson was a 19th century American poet, who was prolific but reclusive poet. Her poems of short lines with slant rhymes that lacked titles were unique for her time.

Eliot, Thomas, and Edward Gorey. *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982.

Originally published in 1930, this is a book of light verse by American poet T.S. Eliot. "Old Possum" being the nickname for Eliot by his contemporary, modernist poet Ezra Pound. This book was the inspiration for Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats*.

Eliot, T.S. *The Waste Land and Other Poems*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1934.

This collection includes one of the most famous poems by American poet T.S. Eliot. "The Waste Land" is a landmark poem in the modernist movement, which Eliot was a part of. It begins with the famous line, "April is the cruellest month," and is considered one of most important poems of the 20th century.

Esselman, Mary and Elizabeth Vélez. *The Hell With Love: Poems to Mend a Broken Heart*. 1st Edition. Warner Books, 2002.

This anthology of love and anti-love poems is witty, heartbreaking, and insightful. It is structured by the stages of mending a broken heart, from "rage" to "moving on, with poems from Shakespeare to Mark Doty. It includes introductions to each section that puts the poems in context for the healing of a broken heart.

Frost, Robert. *Complete Poems of Robert Frost*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.

This is the complete poems of 20th century, American poet Robert Frost. He is known for his treatment of nature and his use of everyday speech. He was often honored in his lifetime, receiving four Pulitzer prizes for his work found in this collection.

Gourevitch, Philip. *The Paris Review Interviews, I. Volume 1*. New York, NY: Picador, 2006.

This is the first collection of interviews by respected literary magazine *The Paris Review*. They are known for collecting frank and revealing interviews with the most important

writers in the world, and this volume includes interviews with American poets T.S. Eliot, Elizabeth Bishop, and Jack Gilbert.

Gourevitch, Philip, and Orhan Pamuk. *The Paris Review Interviews, II. Volume 2*. New York, NY: Picador, 2008.

This is the second collection of interviews by respected literary magazine *The Paris Review*. This volume contains interviews with English poet Philip Larkin and American confessional poet Robert Lowell. This volume has a special introduction by Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk.

Gourevitch, Philip, and Margaret Atwood. *The Paris Review Interviews, III. Volume 3*. New York, NY: Picador, 2008.

This is the third collection of interviews by respected literary magazine *The Paris Review*. This volume is introduced by Canadian poet, essayist, and novelist Margaret Atwood, and includes interviews with American modernist poet William Carlos Williams, and English poet Ted Hughes.

Gourevitch, Philip, and Salman Rushdie. *The Paris Review Interviews, IV. Volume 4*. New York, NY: Picador, 2009

This is the fourth collection of interviews by respected literary magazine *The Paris Review*. This volume is introduced by British-Indian novelist Salman Rushdie, and includes interviews with British poet Marianne Moor, American modernist poet Ezra Pound, and surrealist poet John Ashberry.

Heaney, Seamus. *The Spirit Level*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996.

This is a collection of poetry by contemporary Irish poet Seamus Heaney. This book won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and was the first collection published after the Nobel Prize-winning *Seeing Things*.

Kinnell, Galway. *The Book of Nightmares*. 1st Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1971.

This is book-length poem by famed American poet Galway Kinnell. It is deeply rooted, although not directly about, his involvement in protesting for civil right and against the war in Vietnam. He uses intense imagery and direct language to meditate on what it is to bring his two children into our world.

Kumin, Maxine. *The Nightmare Factory*. 1st Edition. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1970.

This is the third book of poetry by American poet Maxine Kumin. Kumin was a friend of Anne Sexton. She has been the recipient of many major awards, including the Pulitzer

Prize. Because of her use of her native New England as a background for her poetry, she is often considered a regional pastoral poet.

Mikhail, Dunya. *Diary of a Wave Outside the Sea*. New York, NY: New Directions, 2009.

This book of poetry by Iraqi exile Dunya Mikhail appears both in Arabic and English. Mikhail is the winner of the UN Human Rights Award for Freedom of Writing. Her poetry collection *The War Works Hard* won PEN's Translation Award and was selected by New York Public Library as one of the top 25 books of 2005. Mikhail visited MSU in 2009 as a reader in the Center for Poetry's fall reading series, where I had the pleasure of meeting her.

Mulkey, Rick. *Toward Any Darkness*. 1st Edition. Cincinnati, OH: Word Press, 2007.

This is the fourth collection of poetry by Rick Mulkey, who currently is the director of creative writing at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. Mulkey visited a class of mine in Spring 2009 and was also a reader in the Center for Poetry's spring reading series.

Olds, Sharon. *Blood, Tin, Straw*. Great Britain: Jonathan Cape, 2000.

This is the sixth book by praised American poet Sharon Olds. She is sometimes called a "confessional poet" and is known for deeply personal and erotic poems, and has given esteem to writing about family and daily life.

Olds, Sharon. *The Dead and the Living*. New York, NY: Knopf, 1989.

This is the second book by Sharon Olds, which won the Book Critic's Circle award and was the Lamont Poetry Selection for 1983, is one of contemporary poetry's best-selling volumes. This book was wholly praised and continues her legacy as the lineage of Walt Whitman, celebrating the body and direct speech.

Olds, Sharon. *The Gold Cell*. New York, NY: Alfred a Knopf Inc, 2001.

This is the third book by American poet Sharon Olds. It contains one of her most famous poems, "I Go Back to May 1937" where she explores the meeting of her parents, and wrote the famous line, "Do what you are going to do, and I will tell about it."

Olds, Sharon. *One Secret Thing*. London, Great Britain: Jonathan Cape, 2009.

This is the ninth and most recent collection by poet Sharon Olds, where she moves from the personal world of her family, and into history, with the opening poem being a 12-part reflection on war photographs.

Olds, Sharon. *One Secret Thing*. 1st Edition. New York, NY: Knopf, 2008

This collection of poetry by Sharon Olds is the same book as above, but a first edition printed by Knopf. It has a wonderful cover designed by ultimate book jacket designer, Chip Kidd.

Olds, Sharon. *Satan Says*. 1st Edition. Pittsburgh, PA: Univ of Pittsburgh Press, 1980.

This is the first book of poetry by American poet Sharon Olds, which planted her name in the poetry world. It includes the poem, "The Language of the Brag," in which she compares childbirth to the accomplishments of America's biggest poets. This book received the inaugural San Francisco Poetry Center Award.

Paley, Grace. *Grace Paley: New and Collected Poems*. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 1994.

This is a collection of poems by American short-story writer, poet, and political activist Grace Paley. Paley is primarily known for her short-stories, but these poems echo and transform her strange and concise fiction writing style.

*Poet's Choice*. Ed. Paul Engle. New York, NY: Time Incorporated, 1966.

In this unique compilation, America's most famous poets were asked to choose a favorite poem of theirs and to comment upon how they came to the poem, or what sets it apart from others of their poems. Some poets choose poems because they were simply the best, but others chose a poem out of sheer difficulty, one that took dozens of drafts to get right.

*The Poetry Anthology*. Ed. Joseph Parisi. Chicago, IL: Ivan R. Dee, 2002

This is the hefty anthology of *Poetry Magazine*, a publication of the Poetry Foundation. It is the most mainstream and distinguished poetry publication in the US, having published major American voices since 1912 with wide circulation.

Rilke, Rainer Maria, Stephen Mitchell. *Letters to a Young Poet*. New York, NY: Random House, 1987.

This is a collection of letters between famed German poet Rainer Maria Rilke and young man in a Vienna Military Academy who wrote poetry. Their correspondence lasted 6 years and ten letters. Instead of give direct criticism of the young man's poems, Rilke ruminated on issues that a poet will face, from loneliness to sexuality to the idea of a career.

Rukeyser, Muriel. *The Collected Poems of Muriel Rukeyser*. 1st ed. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005.

This is the collected poems of Muriel Rukeyser, who critics unanimously agree is one of the greatest American poets. She is the author of numerous collections of poetry and

prose. Rukeyser was also a progressive political activist, and much of her work revolves around modern society and its ills.

Sexton, Anne. *The Complete Poems*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1982.

This is the complete poetry collection of American, 20th century poet Anne Sexton. Sexton was considered along with Robert Lowell and Sylvia Plath to be in the school of confessional poets of the 1950s and 1960s. She is the author of a dozen books of poetry, most famously *All My Pretty Ones* and *The Awful Rowing Toward God*.

Sexton, Anne, Linda Sexton, and Lois Ames. *Anne Sexton: A Self-Portrait in Letters*. 1st Edition. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1977.

This book, compiled by Sexton's daughter and the executor of her estate, is made up of letters and accounts of the confessional poet's life. It includes correspondence between Sexton and major literary figures such as Maxine Kumin, as well with her psychiatrists, offering us insight into the tragedy of her suicide.

Sitwell, Edith. *Gardeners and Astronomers*. 1st Edition. New York, NY: The Vanguard Press, 1953.

This is a beautiful, first-edition book of poetry by 20th century British poet, novelist, and scholar Edith Sitwell. Echoing the title, the cover is embossed with stars and butterflies. She was a poet of innovation, often experimenting with melody and rhyme and mentored young writers such as Dylan Thomas.

Tate O'Brien, Judith, and Jane Taylor. *By the Grace of Ghosts*. 1st Edition. Cheyenne, Oklahoma: Village Books Press, 2003.

Jane Taylor, an Oklahoma poet, visited a poetry workshop that I attended in 2008. This book of poetry is in many ways a call-and-response project between Taylor and Judith Tate O'Brien, in which a keyword was chosen, such as "puzzles" and "our hair," and use as a starting point for each of their poems.

Wakoski, Diane. *The Magician's Feastletters*. 1st Edition. Santa Barbara, CA: Black Sparrow Press, 1982.

This is a book of poetry by Diane Wakoski, a prolific poet in the deep image movement in American poetry. It is a signed, first edition, marvelously designed by Black Sparrow Press of California, who Wakoski published with many times in her career. Wakoski has been a Professor to me every year I've attended MSU, and has been a vital mentor in my writing life.

Whitman, Walt. *The Complete Poems*. London, England: Penguin Classics, 1986.

This is the complete poems of American poet Walt Whitman, who remains one of the most influential American poets. He is most well-known for his self-published *Leaves of Grass*, which was considered obscene by some for its descriptions of the body and sexuality. He is often considered the father of free verse.

Woloch, Cecilia. *Carpathia*. 1st Edition. Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, 2009.

This is the fifth and most recent by poet Cecilia Woloch, who currently lives and teaches in California. Her most recent works were the chapbook *Narcissus* and the collection *Late*.

Yevtushenko, Yevgeny. *Bratsk Station and Other New Poems*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1967.

This is a collection by Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Yevtushenko often spoke out against Soviet rule. His most famous poem, "Babi Yar" addresses the Soviet distortion of the Nazi massacre of the Jewish population of Kiev.