Language and Thinking Program
2015 Anthology

What does it mean to be human? Freedom and Constraint

1. Philosophy and History

Aristotle Selections (384-322 BCE)
from the Politics, the Poetics, and the Ethics

Lucretius Selections (1st century BCE)
from De Rerum Natura Book II, multiple translations provided

Ludwig Wittgenstein Selections (1958, 1977)

Thomas Nagel “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” (1974)
from Philosophical Review

from Culture & Imperialism

Rebecca Solnit
from Wanderlust (2001)

Susan Sontag Chapter 6 (2003)
from Regarding the Pain of Others

from Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers

II. Social, Formal and Life Sciences

John Maynard Keynes “Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren” (1930)
from Essays in Persuasion

Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud Correspondence: “Why War?” (1932)
from Einstein on Peace, Stuart Gilbert, trans.

Albert Einstein and F.D. Roosevelt Correspondence (1939)

from The Essential Tension
from *Thinking in Pictures: And Other Reports from My Life with Autism*

Judith Butler “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire” (1990)
from *Gender Trouble*

III. Other Forms: Essay, Aphorism, Manifesto, Oratory, Diary

Michel de Montaigne “On the Cannibals” (16th century)
from *The Essays of Michel de Montaigne*, M.A. Screech, trans.

Vaclav Havel *The Power of the Powerless* (1978)

Friedrich Nietzsche #188 (1886)
from *Beyond Good and Evil*

Friedrich Nietzsche “On Truth and Lying in an Extramoral Sense” (1873)

Walter Benjamin “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (1936)

Martin Luther King, Jr. “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (1963)
from www.kingpapers.org

Sol LeWitt “Paragraphs on Conceptual Art” (1967)
from *Conceptual Art: A Critical Anthology*

Rosmarie Waldrop “Alarms & Excursions” (1989)
from *The Politics of Poetic Form*


Taiye Selasi “Bye-Bye Babar” (2005)

George Saunders “The Braindead Megaphone” (2007)

Herta Müller “Nobel Lecture” (2009)

Guy Standing
from *The Precariat* (2010)

IV. Poetry and Sacred Texts
Genesis Chapters 1-3  
from The Five Books of Moses, by Robert Alter, trans.

The Puranas Selections  
from Classical Hindu Mythology, by Cornelia Dimmitt and J.A.B. van Buitenen, trans.

Digha Nikaya Agganna Sutta  

Wang Wei Poem and Translations (8th Century CE)  
from Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei, by Eliot Weinberger, ed.

William Shakespeare “Sonnet 73” (c. 1590)  
from An Exaltation of Forms: Contemporary Poets Celebrate their Art

John Donne “Holy Sonnet XIX” (c. 1862)  
from An Exaltation of Forms: Contemporary Poets Celebrate their Art

Emily Dickinson “I dwell in Possibility” (c. 1862)  
from The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson

Gerard Manley Hopkins “The Windhover” (1877)  
from Poems and Prose

Emma Lazarus “The New Colossus” (1883)  
from Emma Lazarus: Selected Poems and Other Writings

Rainer Maria Rilke from “The First Elegy” (1922)  
from Duino Elegies, multiple translations provided


Gertrude Stein “If I told him” and “A Movie” (1923)  
from A Gertrude Stein Reader

César Vallejo “Piedra Negra Sobre una Piedra Blanca” (1936)  
from Neruda and Vallego, multiple translations provided

Gwendolyn Brooks “The Rites for Cousin Vit” (1950)  
from Blacks
Raymond Patterson “Twenty-six Ways of Looking at a Blackman” (1969) from *Twenty-six Ways of Looking at a Blackman*


Leslie Scalapino. “Vessels” (1976)


Charles Bernstein “The Difficult Poem” (2003) from *Harpers*

Czesław Miłosz from *Selected and Last Poems* (2004)

Durs Grünbein “Berlin Rounds” from *Ashes for Breakfast* (2005)

M. NourbeSe Philip Selections (2008) from *Zong!*

Fred Moten “Barbara lee” (2010) from B Jenkins

Anne Carson “The ‘Ode to Man’ From Sophocles’ *Antigone*” (2010) from *The New Yorker*

V. Fiction and Drama

Sophocles *Antigone*, Reginald Gibbons and Charles Segal, trans. (circa 441 BCE) (separate text)


Franz Kafka “Report to an Academy” (1917)

Ralph Ellison *Invisible Man* (excerpt) (1952)

Junot Díaz “No Face” (1997)
from Drown

from Elizabeth Costello

Clare Wigfall selected stories

Teju Cole
from Open City (2011)