

# POETRY IN AMERICA

## READING LIST | Dickinson

Many different versions of Emily Dickinson's poems have been published since her death in 1886. Unless otherwise specified, we will be using the versions printed in R.W. Franklin's *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition* (1999) in this course.

The readings for this course can be found online via the Emily Dickinson Archive ([www.edickinson.org](http://www.edickinson.org)). The Archive, which is free to use and open to all, offers access to digitized versions of Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts, as well as to full-text transcriptions of the poems.

### WEEK 1 | Introduction to Dickinson's Life and Poetry

- 📖 "Split the lark and you'll find the music" (F905)<sup>1</sup>
- 📖 "Remorse is memory awake" (F781A)
- 📖 "'Hope' is the thing with feathers" (F314)
- 📖 "After great pain, a formal feeling comes" (F372)
- 📖 "A bird came down the walk" (F359)
- 📖 "Pain expands the time" (F833)
- 📖 "My life has stood a loaded gun" (F764)
- 📖 "I dwell in possibility" (F466)
- 📖 "A solemn thing it was I said" (F307)
- 📖 "This world is not conclusion" (F373)
- 📖 "I never lost as much but twice" (F39)
- 📖 "My faith is larger than the hills" (F489)
- 📖 "A clock stopped" (F259)

### WEEK 2 | Dickinson and Nature

- 📖 "A narrow fellow in the grass" (F1096)
- 📖 "A bird came down the walk" (F359)
- 📖 "There's a certain slant of light" (F320)

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<sup>1</sup> The parenthetical notation indicates the edition ("F": Franklin's *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition* [1999]) and the poem number, rather than the page number.

- 📖 "A spider sewed at night" (F1163)
- 📖 "How the old mountains drip with sunset" (F327)
- 📖 "Bring me the sunset in a cup" (F140)
- 📖 "There came a wind like a bugle" (F1618)
- 📖 "I think that the root of the wind is water" (F1295)
- 📖 "It sifts from leaden sieves" (F291)
- 📖 "Apparently with no surprise" (F1668), aka "The Blonde Assassin"
- 📖 "The wind begun to rock the grass" (F796), aka "The wind begun to knead the grass"
- 📖 "The Wind begun to knead the Grass" (J824)<sup>2</sup>

### WEEK 3 | Dickinson and the Psyche

- 📖 "On a columnar self" (F740)
- 📖 "A solemn thing it was said" (F307)
- 📖 "I breathed enough to take the trick" (F308)
- 📖 "He put the belt around my life" (F330)
- 📖 "What soft cherubic creatures" (F675)
- 📖 "Much madness is divinest sense" (F620)
- 📖 "I'm nobody! Who are you" (F260)
- 📖 "I'm Nobody! Who are you?" (J288)<sup>3</sup>
- 📖 "I am alive I guess" (F605)
- 📖 "We grow accustomed to the dark" (F428)
- 📖 "Pain expands the time" (F833)
- 📖 "'Hope' is the thing with feathers" (F314)

### WEEK 4 | Dickinson and the Arts

- 📖 "I dwell in possibility" (F466)
- 📖 "This was a Poet" (F446)
- 📖 "The poets light but lamps" (F930)
- 📖 "Your thoughts dont have words every day" (F1476)
- 📖 "I cannot dance upon my toes" (F381)
- 📖 "They shut me up in prose" (F445)
- 📖 "I would not paint a picture" (F348)

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<sup>2</sup> Taken from Thomas W. Johnson's *The Poems of Emily Dickinson* (1955).

<sup>3</sup> Taken from Thomas W. Johnson's *The Poems of Emily Dickinson* (1955).