I. CIRCLING THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE: THE NEW TESTAMENT (ca. 1st century C.E.)
  Luke 2 [The Birth and Youth of Jesus]
  Matthew 5-7 [The Sermon on the Mount]
  Luke 15 [Parables]
  Matthew 13 [Why Jesus Teaches in Parables]
  Matthew 27-28 [Crucifixion and Resurrection]
  John 1 [The Word]

APULEIUS (ca. 125-180)
  The Golden Ass
    From Book 3

AUGUSTINE (354-430)
  Confessions
    From Book I (Childhood)
    From Book II (The Pear Tree)
    From Book III (Student at Carthage)
    From Book V (Augustine leaves Carthage for Rome)
    From Book VIII (Conversion)
    From Book IX (Death of His Mother)

THE QUR'AN (610-632)
  1. The Opening
  5. The Feast
  10. Jonah
  12. Joseph
  19. Mary
  55. The Lord of Mercy
  76. Man

IBN ISHAQ (704-767)
  The Biography of the Prophet
    How Salman Became a Muslim
    The Beginning of the Sending Down of the Qur'an
    Khadija, Daughter of Khuwaylid, Accepts Islam
    From Ali ibn Abu Talib, the First Male to Accept Islam
      [The Burial Preparations]

BEOWULF (ca. 9th century)

ABOLOQASEM FERDOWSI (940-1020)
  The Shahnameh
    The Birth of Sekandar
    Dara's Dying Words to Sekandar
    Sekandar's Letter to Foor
    Sekandar Leads His Army Against Foor
    Sekandar's Battle Against the Indian Troops
    Sekandar Kills Foor
    Sekandar Leads His Army to Egypt
    Sekandar's Letter to Qaydafeh
    The Greeks Capture Qaydafeh's Son
    Sekandar Goes as an Envoy to Qaydafeh
    Qaydafeh Gives Sekandar Some Advice
Sekandar Sees a Corpse in the Palace of Topazes
Sekandar Sees the Speaking Tree
Sekandar Visits the Emperor of China
Sekandar Leads the Army to Babylon
Sekandar's Letter to Arestalis and Arestalis's Reply
Sekandar's Letter to His Mother
The Mourning for Sekandar

AVICENNA/IBN SINA (ca. 980-1037)
From Mi'raj-nameh
From the SONG OF ROLAND (11th century)

PETRUS ALFONSI (1062-after 1116)
The Scholar's Guide
  Prologue
  I. The Parable of the Half Friend
  II. From The Parable of the Whole Friend
  XI. The Parable of the Sword
  XII. The Parable of the King and His Storyteller
  XIII. The Parable of the Weeping Bitch

MARIE DE FRANCE (1150?-1200?)
  Lais
  Prologue
  Lanval
  Laustic

MEDIEVAL LYRICS
  Boethius, From The Consolation of Philosophy (Book 3, Poem XII)
  Notker Balbulus, A Hymn to Holy Women
  Anonymous, The Ruin
  Anonymous, Song of Summer
  Ibn Zaydun, From al-Zahra
  William IX, I'll Write a Verse About Nothing At All
  Arnaut Daniel, The Art of Love
  Yehuda HaLevi, To Ibn al-Mu'allim
  Yehuda HaLevi, Lord
  Hildegard of Bingen, Responsory for the Virgin (Slender branch)
  Hildegard of Bingen, Responsory for the Virgin (Priceless integrity)
  The Archpoet, His Confession
  Bernart de Ventadorn, When I See the Lark Stretch Out
  Beatrix of Dia, A Lover's Prize
  Bertran de Born, In Praise of War
  Heinrich von Morungen, The Wound of Love
  Walther von der Vogelweide, Dancing Girl
  Ibn Arabi, Gentle Now, Doves
  Alfonso X, The Scorpions
  Shem Tov Ardutiel, From The Battles of the Pen and Scissors
  Hadewijch of Brabant, The Cult of Love
  Anonymous, Calvary
  Jalaloddin Rumi, Dissolver of Sugar
  Jalaloddin Rumi, The Question
  Jalaloddin Rumi, An Empty Garden
  Jalaloddin Rumi, Only Breath
  Guido Guinizelli, Love Always Repairs to the Noble Heart
Guido Cavalcanti, A Lady Asks Me
Dante, Guido, I Wish
Dante, Love and the Gentle Heart
Alexander the Wild, Strawberry Picking
Dafydd ap Gwilym, The Fox
Hafez, Plant Friendship's Tree
Hafez, Thanks Be to God
Jahan Khatun, Heart, In His Beauty's Garden
Christine de Pizan, I Am Alone, and Alone I Wish To Stay
Anonymous, Lament of the Virgin
Charles d'Orleans, If You Wish to Sell Your Kisses

FARIDODDIN ATTAR (1145-1221)
The Conference of Birds
The Story of Sheikh Sam'an

DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265-1321)
The Divine Comedy
Inferno
From Purgatorio
From Paradiso

KEBRA NAGAST (14th century)
17. The Glory of Zion
19. How This Book Came to Be Found 20. The Division of the Earth
21. The Queen of the South
22. Tamrin, the Merchant
23. How the Merchant Returned to Ethiopia
25. How the Queen Came to Solomon the King
28-29. How Solomon Gave Commandments to the Queen
31. The Sign Which Solomon Gave the Queen
32. How the Queen Brought Forth and Came to Her Own Country
33. How the King of Ethiopia Travelled
34. How the Young Man Arrived in His Mother's Country
36. How King Solomon Conversed with His Son
45. How Those Who Were Sent Away Made a Plan
48. How They Carried Away Zion

THE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS (14th century)
Prologue
[The Story of King Shahrayar and Shahrazad, His Vizier's Daughter]
[The Tale of the Ox and the Donkey]
[The Tale of the Merchant and His Wife]
[The Story of the Merchant and the Demon]
[The First Old Man's Tale]
[The Second Old Man's Tale]
[The Third Old Man's Tale]
[The Story of the Fisherman and the Demon]
[The Tale of King Yunan and the Sage Duban]
[The Tale of the Husband and the Parrot]
[The Tale of the King's Son and the She-Ghoul]
[The Tale of the Enchanted King]
GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO (1313-1375)
The Decameron
  Day 1, Story 1
  Day 2, Story 7
  Day 4, Story 9
  Day 10, Story 9
  Day 10, Story 10

GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1340?-1400)
The Canterbury Tales
  The General Prologue
  The Wife of Bath's Prologue
  The Wife of Bath's Tale Introduction to the Pardoner's Tale
  The Pardoner's Tale (Translated by Sheila Fisher)

ANONYMOUS
SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT (late 14th century)

CHRISTINE DE PIZAN (ca. 1364-ca. 1431)
The Book of the City of Ladies
  1. Here Begins the Book of the City of Ladies
  2. The Three Ladies
  3. Reason
  4. The City
  14-19. The Amazons
  33. Carmentis
  34. Minerva
  37-38. On the Good Done by These Women
        46. Dido
        48. Lavinia

TRAVEL AND ENCOUNTER

Marco Polo, The Diversity of the World
Ibn Battuta, Travels
The Book of John Mandeville

II. INDIA'S CLASSICAL AGE

VISNUSARMA (2nd or 3rd centuries)
Pancatantra
  From Book I. The Loss of Friends
    Leap and Creep
    The Blue Jackal
    Forethought, Readywit, and Fatalist
  From Book III. Crows and Owls
    Mouse-Maid Made Mouse
  From Book V. Ill-Considered Action
    The Loyal Mungoose
CLASSICAL TAMIL LYRIC (CA. 3RD CENTURY)

What She Said [In his country]
What She Said [Forest animals walk there]
What She Said [He is from those mountains]
What She Said [The colors on the elephant's body]
What Her Girl Friend Said [Near the salt pans . . .]
What He Said [A hen-eagle broods]
What He Said [Her arms have the beauty]
What He Said [Rains in Season]
What Her Girl Friend Said [On the new sand . . .]
What She Said [The round blazing sun]

Seven Said by the Foster Mother (1) [The way they lay together]
From Marutam. The Lover's Unfaithfulness, After Marriage
   What She Said [In his country]
   What Her Girlfriend Asked [From the long fronds]

This World Lives Because
Earth's Bounty
   Children
   A Young Warrior
A Mother's List of Duties

KALIDASA (4th century)
   Sakuntala and the Ring of Recollection

CLASSICAL SANSKRIT LYRIC

BHARTRHARI (5th century)
   [I haven't been the cloud]
   [When she's out of sight]
   [When I knew little]
To His Patron
   [A human being]
   [As the sun rises and sets]
   [For a moment he's a child]

THREE WOMEN POETS (5th-8th centuries?)
   Vikatanitamba, 572 [As he came to bed the knot fell open of itself]
   Bhavakadevi, 646 [At first our bodies knew a perfect oneness]
   Vidya, 807 [Good neighbor wife, I beg you]

BANA (early 7th century)
   1166 [The horse rises, stretches its hind legs]
   1174 [The puff of smoke from the forest fire]
   1305 [At evening having warmed himself]

DHARMAKIRTI (mid-7th century)
   477 [Your union with your lover will be very brief]
   1213 [Never to ask the wicked for favors]
   1731 [There's no one riding ahead of me]
BHAVABHUTI (8th century)
   598 [And as we talked together softly, secretly]
   753 [A flood of tears blurs my vision]
   783 [My love is married to me]
   1731 [The people in this world who scorn me]

YOGESVARA (9th century)
   257 [Now the great cloud cat]
   291 [The days are sweet with ripening of sugar cane]
   314 [Now may one prize the peasant houses]
   315 [The fields where sesame has ripened]
   318 [The warmth of their straw borne off by icy winds]
   1163 [The cat has humped her back]
   1312 [When the rain pours down on the decrepit house]

MURARI (mid-9th century)
   913 [Is the moonlight nothing but the powder]
   958 [As the moon ages, darkness covers the sky]
   1019 [O pearl free of flaws, publish yourself]
   1526 [My limbs are frail, my voice is weak]
   1585 [I remember this mountain]

RAJASHEKHARA (late 9th-early 10th century)
   457 [When people see her face]
   336 [Youthfulness inscribes all her parts]
   525 [The damsel of arched eyebrows]

SOMADEVA (11th century)
   Kathasaristātāgara
      The Red Lotus of Chastity

III. MEDIEVAL CHINESE LITERATURE

HERMITS, BUDDHISTS, AND DAOISTS

RUAN JI (210-263)
   Song of My Cares I
   Song of My Cares XXXIII
   Song of My Cares LXVIII

LIU YIQING (403-444)
   From A New Account of Tales of the World

HANSHAN (Cold Mountain) (ca. 600-800)
   Whoever reads my poems
   A thatched hut
   A curtain of pearls
   Here we languish
   In my first thirty years of life
   Wonderful, this road to Cold Mountain
   When people see the man of Cold Mountain
   High, high from the summit of the peak
   I longed to visit the eastern cliff
On Cold Mountain there's a naked bug
Men ask the way to Cold Mountain
My mind is like the autumn moon
So Hanshan writes you these words
Do you have the poems of Hanshan in your house?

LITERATURE ABOUT LITERATURE

Cao Pi, From A Discourse on Literature
Lu Ji, Poetic Exposition on Literature
Wang Xizhi, Preface to the Orchid Pavilion Poems

TAO QIAN (365-427)
The Peach Blossom Spring
The Return
Biography of Master Five Willows
Substance, Shadow, and Spirit
   I. Substance to Shadow
   II. Shadow to Substance
   III. Spirit's Solution
Returning to the Farm to Dwell
Begging for Food
On Moving House
In the Sixth Month of 408, Fire
Twenty Poems After Drinking Wine
   Finding Fault with My Sons
On Reading the Seas and Mountain Classic
Elegy

TANG POETRY

WANG WEI (ca. 699-761)
Zhongnan Retreat
In Response to Vice-Magistrate Zhang
Wang River Collection
   Preface
   Deer Enclosure
   Lake Yi
   Gold Powder Spring
   White Rock Rapids
   Written on Crossing the Yellow River to Qinghe
   While I Was Imprisoned in Puti Monastery
   Farewell
LI BO (701-762)
The Sun Rises and Sets
South of the Walls We Fought
Bring in the Wine
Question and Answer in the Mountains
Summer Day in the Mountains
Drinking Alone with the Moon
The Hardships of Traveling the Road, I
Seeing Off Meng Haoran at Yellow Crane Tower, on His Way to Guangling
In the Quiet Night
Sitting Alone by Jingting Mountain
A Song on Visiting Heaven's Crane Mountain in a Dream: On Parting

DU FU (712-770)
Painted Hawk
Moonlight Night
Qiang Village I
My Thatched Roof Is Ruined by the Autumn Wind
I Stand Alone
Spending the Night in a Tower by the River
Thoughts While Travelling at Night
Ballad of the Firewood Vendors
Autumn Meditations IV

BO JUYI (772-846)
The Song of Lasting Regret
[Chen Hong, An Account to Go with the Song of Lasting Pain]
Salt Merchant's Wife
On My Portrait
Last Poem

HAN YU (768-824)
The Biography of Tipp O'Hair

LIU ZONGYUAN (773-819)
A Theory of Heaven

YUAN ZHEN (779-831)
The Story of Yingying

LI QINGZHAO (1084-ca. 1151)
Records on Metal and Stone
Afterword
Song Lyrics
To "Southern Song"
To "Free-Spirited Fisherman"
To "Like a Dream"
To "Drunk in the Shadow of Flowering Trees"
To "Spring in Wu-ling"
To "Note After Note"
IV. JAPAN'S CLASSICAL AGE

COLLECTION OF MYRIAD LEAVES

(Man'yoshu) (mid-8th century)
[Emperor Jomei]
   Poem composed by the Emperor when he ascended Mount Kagu and viewed the land
[Princess Nukata ]
   (On Spring and Autumn)
[Kakinomoto no Hitomaro]
   Poem composed by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro on passing the ruined capital of Omi
   Poem composed when the Sovereign went on an excursion to the palace at Yoshino
   Poem written by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro when he parted from his wife in the land of Iwami and came up
   to the capital
   Poem composed by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, sorely grieving with tears of blood, after his wife died
   Poem written by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro upon seeing a dead man lying among the rocks on the island of
   Samine in Sanuki
   Poem composed by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro sorrowing over himself as he lay at the point of death in
   Iwami Province
   Two poems composed by his wife, a maiden of the Yosami, when Kakinomoto no Hitomaro died
[Otomo no Tabito]
   Thirteen poems in praise of wine by Lord Otomo Tabito, the Commander of the Dazaifu
[Yamanoue no Okura]
   Dialogue on Poverty
   A poem of longing for his children, with preface

POETRY OF THE HEIAN COURT

SUGAWARA NO MICHIZANE (845-903)
   On Looking at the Plum Blossoms on a Moonlit Night
   I Stop Practicing the Zither
   The Hardships of Professors
   Note on My Library
   Seeing the Plum Blossoms when Sentenced to Exile
   In Exile, Spring Snow

COLLECTION OF ANCIENT AND MODERN POEMS (Kokinshu) (ca. 905)
   Ki no Tsurayuki, The "Japanese Preface"
   1. Ariwara no Motokata, [Spring has come]
   2. Anonymous, [Waters I cupped my hands to drink]
   3. Anonymous, [Where are the promised mists of spring?]
   23. Ariwara no Yukihiro, [Spring robe of mist]
   24. Minamoto no Muneyuki, [Ever the greens]
   25. Ki no Tsurayuki, [My loved one's robes]
   26. Ki no Tsurayuki, [Green threads]
   27. Archbishop Henjo, [Their pale green threads]
   69. Anonymous, [Oh hills where mists of spring trail]
   70. Anonymous, [If saying "stay!" would stop their falling]
   71. Anonymous, [It's their falling without regret I admire]
   72. Anonymous, [I seem bound to sleep in this village tonight]
   73. Anonymous, [Are they not like this fleeting world?]
   256. Ki no Tsurayuki, [From that first day the winds of autumn sounded]
   257. Fujiwara no Toshiyuki, [White dew all of a single color]
258. Mibu no Tadamine, [As the dew of autumn's night settles]
259. Anonymous, [Surely the autumn dew must have its varied ways]
495. Anonymous, [Memories revive] 496. Anonymous, [Loving secretly is too hard for me to bear]
497. Anonymous, [On the autumn fields . . . I'll love]
498. Anonymous, [The warbler singing]
499. Anonymous, [Can the young cuckoo . . . be as sad as I]
500. Anonymous, [The mosquito flares]
635. Ono no Komachi, [Autumn nights, long only in name]
636. Oshikochi no Mitsune, [For me, not long enough at all]
637. Anonymous, [Just as the morning sky is brightening]
638. Fujiwara no Toshiyuki, [Dawn has come I resign myself to parting]
639. Fujiwara no Toshiyuki, [Dawn has come on the path home from love]
640. Utsuku, [I begin to cry regret for our parting]

553. Ono no Komachi, [Once I fell asleep...and saw him for whom I long]
554. Ono no Komachi, [When pressed with longing . . . I slip off the robe of night]
657. Ono no Komachi, [Driven straight along by a longing without bound]
658. Ono no Komachi, [Though on paths of dreams . . . I run to and fro]

KI NO TSURAYUKI (872-945)
From Tosa Diary

SEI SHONAGON (ca. 966-1017)
The Pillow Book
  1 In Spring, the Dawn
  2 Times of Year
  4 It breaks my heart to think
  6 The Emperor's Cat
  20 The sliding panels that close off the north-east corner
  22 Dispiriting Things
  30 A priest who gives a sermon should be handsome
  39 Refined and elegant things
  40 Insects
  68 Things that can't be compared
  71 Rare things
  82 Once when her Majesty was in residence
  104 Things that are distressing to see
  144 Endearingly lovely things
  257 Things that give pleasure
  329 I have written in this book

MURASAKI SHIKIBU (978-1014)
The Tale of Genji
  From Chapter 1. The Paulownia Pavilion
  From Chapter 2. The Broom Tree
  From Chapter 5. Young Murasaki
  From Chapter 7. Beneath the Autumn Leaves
  From Chapter 9. Heart-to-Heart
  From Chapter 12. Suma
  From Chapter 13. Akashi
  From Chapter 25. The Fireflies
  From Chapter 40. The Law

KAMO NO CHOMEI (ca. 1155-1216)
Account of my Ten-Foot-Square Hut
YOSHIDA KENKO (ca. 1283-1352)
From Essays in Idleness

THE TALES OF THE HEIKE (14th century)
Book One
    The Bells of Gion Monastery
Book Six
    The Death of Kiyomori
Book Seven
    Tadanori Leaves the Capital
    The Flight from Fukuhara
Book Nine
    The Attack from the Cliff
    The Death of Tadanori
    The Death of Atsumori
Book Eleven
    The Drowning of the Former Emperor
The Initiates’ Book
    The Imperial Lady Becomes a Nun
    The Move to Ohara
    The Death of the Imperial Lady