Literature & Medicine

Readings Available from Mass Humanities

Abse, Dannie *Case History*
Adrian, Chris *A Better Angel*
Adrian, Chris *A Child’s Book of Sickness and Death*
Adrian, Chris *The Sum of our Parts*
Aiken, Conrad *Silent Snow, Secret Snow*
Alcott, Louisa *A Night*
Allison, Dorothy *A Question of Class*
Aminpoor, Gheysar *A Poem about War*
Ammons, A.R. *Gravelly Run*
Anderson, Doug *A Bar in Argos*
Anderson, Doug *Bamboo Bridge*
Anderson, Doug *Homecoming*
Anderson, Doug *Homer Does Not Mention Him*
Anderson, Doug *North of Tam Ky*
Anderson, Doug *Something Like a Soul*
Anderson, Doug *War Chatter*
Angell, Roger *This Old Man*
Arnold, Miah *You Owe Me*
Auden, W. H. *Musee Des Beaux Arts*
Baldwin, James *Notes of a Native Son*
Barrett, Andrea *Ship Fever*
Baruch, Jay *A Little Heart*
Beard, Jo Ann *The Fourth State of Matter*
Becker, Suzy *I Had Brain Surgery*
Bell, Elana *Your Village*
Berriault, Gina *The Stone Boy*
Bliss, Eula *The Pain Scale*
Bloom, Amy *Silver Water*
Borges, Jose Luis *Blindness*
Boudreau, Tyler *The Morally Injured*
Bowe, Geoffrey *Male Nurse Washing a Nun*
Bowen, Kevin *Playing Basketball with Vietcong*
Bradbury, Ray *The Leave-Taking*
Brashler, Anne *He Read To Her*
Brown, Jeanette *How to Visit a Healer*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of the Body*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of Hunger*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of Mourning*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of Speech*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of Sweat*
Brown, Rebecca *The Gift of Wholeness*
Broyard, Alexandra *Epilogue*
Broyard, Anatole *Intoxicated by my Illness*
Broyard, Anatole *The Patient Examines the Doctor*
Bulgakow, Mikhail *The Steel Windpipe*
Burana, Lily *The Quiet Side of Being a Soldier*
Cajal, Santiago *Beginner's Trap*
Campo, Rafael *Like A Prayer*
Campo, Rafael *The Desire To Heal*
Campo, Rafael *VI SW*
Carver, Raymond *A Small Good Thing*
Carver, Raymond *Cathedral*
Carver, Raymond *What the Doctor Said*
Carver, Raymond *Where I'm Calling From*
Chaon, Dan *Stay Awake*
Chekhov *An Awkward Business*
Chekhov, Anton *A Doctor’s Visit*
Chekhov, Anton *Enemies*
Chekhov, Anton *Misery*
Chekhov, Anton *Swan Song*
Chekhov *Ward Number Six*
Coetzee, J.M. *The Blow*
Dark, Alice *In the Gloaming*
Dark, Alice *Watch the Animals*
Davis, Cortney *The Body Flute*
Davis, Cortney *The Other Side of Illness*
Davis, Marilyn *Song for my Son*
Deppe, Theodore *Admission Children’s Unit*
Davis, Marilyn *Song for my Son*
Deppe, Theodore *Admission Children’s Unit*
Díaz, Junot *Nilda*
Dickinson, Emily *After Great Pain, a Formal Feeling Comes*
Dickinson, Emily *Much Madness is Divinest Sense*
Didion, Joan *The After Life*
Didion, Joan *In Bed*
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor *Notes from Underground*
Doty, Mark *Brilliance*
Dubus, Andre *At Night*
Dubus, Andre *Blessings*
Dubus, Andre *The Colonel's Wife*
Dubus, Andre *Dancing After Hours*
Dubus, Andre *Out of the Snow*
Eisenberg, Susan *Flu Vaccine*
Eisenberg, Susan *Introduction to Asthma*
Ephron, Nora *What I Won't Miss*
Erdrich, Louise *The Red Convertible*
Euripides *Hekabe*
Bliss, Eula *The Pain Scale*
Faust, Drew *Believing and Doubting*
Faust, Drew *Dying*
Faust, Drew *Preface in The Work of Death*
Fey, Tina *Remembrances of Being Very, Very Skinny* and *Remembrances of Being a Little Bit Fat* (from *Bossypants*)
Fink, Sheri *Strained by Katrina*
Finkel, David *The Good Soldiers* (excerpt)
Finkel, David *The Return* (excerpt)
Forche, Carolyn *The Colonel*
Franzen, Jonathan *My Father's Brain*
Frost, Robert *After Apple-Picking*
Frost, Robert *The Oven Bird*
Gawande, Atul *The Case of the Red Leg*
Gawande, Atul *The Doctors of the Death Chamber*
Gawande, Atul *Letting Go*
Gawande, Atul *When Doctors Make Mistakes*
Gilbertson, Ashley *The Life and Lonely Death of Noah Pierce*
Glaspell, Susan *A Jury of Her Peers*
Gordon, Arthur *Old Ironpuss*
Gould, Stephen *The Median Isn't the Message*
Groopman, Jerome *Our Firstborn Son*
Grumbach, Doris *Coming Into the End*
Hall, Donald *Afterword*
Hall, Donald *Air Shatters In The Car's Small Room*
Hall, Donald *The Gallery*
Hall, Donald *Her Long Illness*
Hall, Donald *Last Days*
Hall, Donald *The Ship Pounding*
Hall, Donald *Without*
Harleman, Ann *Thoreau’s Laundry*
Haslett, Adam *Notes to My Biographer*
Haslett, Adam *The Good Doctor*
Hawthorne, Nathaniel *Roger Malvin’s Burial*
Hecht, Anthony *The Transparent Man*
Hemingway, Ernest *Indian Camp*
Hemingway, Ernest *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*
Hemon, Aleksandar *The Aquarium*
Hempel, Amy *In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson is Buried*
Hikmet, Nazim *On Living*
Hilfiker, David *Taking Sides*
Hitchens, Christopher *The Topic of Cancer*
Hoagland, Tony *Arrows*
Hopkins, Gerard *Sonnet 65*
Howe, Marie *What the Living Do*
Hurston, Zora *My Most Humiliating Jim Crow Experience*
Jamison, Leslie *Empathy Exams*
Jamison, Kay Redfield *An Unquiet Mind*
Jarrell, Randall *Next Day*
Jarrell, Randall *X-Ray Waiting Room*
Judt, Tony *Night*
Kanafani, Ghassan *The Death of Bed Number 12*
Karnezis, Panos *Medical Ethics*
Kenyon, Jane *Chrysanthemums*
Kenyon, Jane *Eating the Cookies*
Kenyon, Jane *Having it Out with Melancholy*
Kenyon, Jane *Let Evening Come and Notes from the Other Side*
Kenyon, Jane *Otherwise*
Kenyon, Jane *Pharaoh*
Kenyon, Jane *The Sick Wife*
Kinh, Bui *Late Moon*
Klass, Perri *Index Case*
Klays, Phil *Redeployment*
Kleinman, Arthur *Winthrop Cohen*
Knighton, Ryan *Cockeyed (pgs 1-44)*
Knighton, Ryan *Cockeyed (pgs 45-58)*
Kono, Juliet *Homeless*
Kono, Juliet *The Struggle*
Kooser, Ted At the Cancer Clinic
Koven, Suzanne Empathy Examined
Koven, Suzanne Uncomfort of Prescribing Painkillers
Koven, Suzanne Using Humor in the Doctor’s Office
Kunitz, Stanley The Portrait
Lam, Andrew Show and Tell
Lam, Vincent Winston
Lamb, Wally She’s Come Undone (excerpt)
Lan, Ly Singing Grass
Larkin, Philip The Old Fools
Lasdun, James The Incalculable Life
LaValle, Victor Long Distance
Levertov, Denise The 90th Year
Levine, Philip Listen Carefully
Lorde, Audre The Electric Slide Boogie and Today Is Not the Day
MacCurdy, Marian Sacred Justice – Introduction (excerpt)
MacCurdy, Marian Sacred Justice – Chapter 5 (excerpt)
Mairs, Nancy On Being Cripple
Marin, Peter Living in Moral Pain
Marlantes, Karl What is it Like to Go to War “Temple” excerpt
Masson, Veneta Guilt
Masson, Veneta Maggie Jones, Ticket to Christmas, and Another Case of Chronic Pelvic Pain
Masson, Veneta Passages
Mates, Susan Laundry
McCarriston, Linda Hotel Nights with my Mother
McMahon, Marilyn Wounds of War
Meagher, Robert Killing from the Inside Out (excerpt)
Melville, Herman Bartleby
Miles, Josephine Doll
Millas, Juan Aceite de Ricino y Mistica
Millas, Juan El Tio Emilio
Millas, Juan La Mejor Tarde de Mi Vida
Miller, Allen All the Voices
Miller, Sue Appropriate Affect
Milton, John On His Blindness
Mitchell, Joseph Joe Goulds Secret
Moore, Judith Fat Girl
Moore, Lorrie People Like That Are The Only People Here
Mueller, Lisel Monet Refuses Operation
Munro, Alice The Bear Came Over The Mountain
Munro, Alice Dear Life
Nealon, Mary Jane Wanting to Save Everyone
Neher, Jon Time and Tide
Ninh, Bao Shadow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam (excerpt)
Nyman, Leslie Wisteria
O’Brien, Tim The Lives of the Dead
O’Brien, Tim The Things They Carried
O’Connor, Flannery Everything That Rises Must Converge
Oates, Joyce A Widow’s Story
Ofri, Danielle Tools of the Trade
Ofri, Danielle Torment
Ofri, Danielle Vision
Olds, Sharon The Death of Marilyn Monroe
Olds, Sharon The Promise
Oliver, Mary When Death Comes
Owen, Wilfred Sonnet
Owen, Wilfred Arms and the Boy
Owen, Wilfred Anthem for Doomed Youth
Owen, Wilfred Dulce Et Decorum Est
Owen, Wilfred Insensibility
Owen, Wilfred Mental Cases
Owen, Wilfred Parable of the Old Mand and the Young
Owen, Wilfred S.I.W.
Owen, Wilfred Soldier’s Dream
Ozick, Cynthia The Shawl
Paley, Grace A Conversation with My Father
Pearlman, Edith Castle 4 (from Honeydew)
Perillo, Lucia Poem without Breasts..
Perillo, Lucia Poem Without Breasts and Second Poem Without Breasts
Plath, Sylvia Lady Lazarus
Phillips, Chester Charging Lions
Poe, Edgar The Tell Tale Heart
Poe, Edgar Allen The Tell Tale Heart
Porter, Katherine The Jilting of Granny Weatherall
Price, John Night Rhythms
Riederer, Rachel Patient
Rilke, Ranier Sonnets to Orpheus II 13
Rivers, W. The Repression of War Experience
Robinson, Roxana Paralyzed
Rosenbaum, Lisa Transitional Chaos or Enduring Harm: The EHR and the Disruption of Medicine
Roth, Philip *Defender of the Faith*
Rozga, Margaret *Though I Haven’t Been to Baghdad*
Rukeyser, Muriel *Resurrection of the Right Side*
Ryan, Kay *Patience*
Salemi, Joseph *Sicilian Beachhead*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Attack*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Their Frailty*
Sassoon, Siegfried “Blighters”
Sassoon, Siegfried *Memorial Tablet*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Joy-Bells*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Does it Matter?*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Glory of Women*
Sassoon, Siegfried *How to Die*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Reconciliation*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Suicide in the Trenches*
Sassoon, Siegfried *Survivors*
Sassoon, Siegfried *They*
Schaefer, Judy *Who Owns The Libretto*
Schwartz, Kenneth *A Patient’s Story*
Scialabba, George *The Endlessly Examined Life*
Sedaris, David *The Happy Place* (from *Let’s Explore Diabetes with Owls*)
Sedaris, David *Now We Are Five*
Selgin, Peter *Restaurant*
Selzer, Richard *Atrium: October 2001*
Selzer, Richard *Discus Thrower*
Selzer, Richard *Fetishes*
Selzer, Richard *Four Appointments*
Sexton, Anne *Doctors*
Shae, Suzanne *Songs from a Lead-lined Room*
Shakespeare, William *Sonnet 22*
Shakespeare, William *Sonnet 60*
Shepard, Jim *Sans Farine*
Sittenfeld, Curtis *American Wife* (excerpt)
Solomon, Andrew *Far from the Tree*
Staten, Pat *The Day My Father Tried To Kill Us*
Stone, John *Gaudeamus Igitur*
Stone, John *He Makes a House Call*
Stone, Robert *Helping*
Stone, Robert *Honeymoon*
Strout, Elizabeth *Incoming Tide*
Studer, Constance *Mercy*
Swenson, May *Question*
Taylor, Anita *By My Own Hand*
Terr, Lenore *Denial and Numbing*
Thernstrom, Melanie *Part 1: The Vale of Pain, The Veil of Pain*
Thomas, Dylan *Do Not Go Gentle*
Thucydides *Coreyra*
Turner, Brian *AB Negative*
Turner, Brian *Eulogy*
Turner, Brian *The Hurt Locker*
Turner, Brian *Sadiq*
Updike, John *Endpoint*
Updike, John *Hospital*
Valinoti, Eileen *First Day on the Ward*
Viramontes, Helena *The Moths*
Wagner, Pamela *Poem in which Paranoia Strikes at the Grocery Store*
Wagner, Pamela *Too Much*
Weigel, Bruce *Song of Napalm*
Weinberg, Richard *Communion*
Weinberg, Richard *First Love*
Weinberg, Richard *The Laying on of Hands*
Wharton, Edith *Diagnosis*
Whitman, Walt *various poems*
Williams, Marjorie *Hit By Lightening*
Williams, Marjorie *The Halloween of My Dreams*
Williams, William *The Girl with a Pimply Face*
Williams, William *Jean Beicke*
Williams, William *Old Doc Rivers*
Williams, William *The Practice*
Williams, William *The Use of Force*
Williams, William *The Use of Force* (Readers Theater Version)
Woolf, Virginia *On Being Ill*
Woolf, Virginia *From Mrs Dalloway*
Yalom, Irwin *Fat Lady*
Yeats, William *When You Are Old*
Young, Kevin *Ode to the Hotel Near the Children’s Hospital*
Zarin, Cynthia *An Enlarged Heart*