

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION	21
PROLOGUE	
Introduction to Songs of Experience – William Blake	28
PHASE I: THE QUICKENING	39
<i>1. Awakening: “After Dark Vapours Have Oppressed our Plains”</i>	
To Morning – William Blake	30
Westminster Bridge – William Wordsworth	30
Up! quit thy bower – Joanna Baillie	31
Sonnet: After Dark Vapours Have Oppressed Our Plains – John Keats	32
Home-Thoughts, from Abroad – Robert Browning	32
Spring – Gerard Manley Hopkins	33
<i>2. Childhood and innocence: “Laughing is heard on the hill”</i>	
Nurse’s Song – William Blake	34
Infant Joy – William Blake	35
It Is a Beauteous Evening – William Wordsworth	35
Evening Schoolboys – John Clare	36

3. *Wonders and discoveries: "Come forth into the light of things"*

The Tables Turned – William Wordsworth	37
On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer – John Keats	38
A Boy's Song – James Hogg	39
Memorabilia – Robert Browning	40
London Snow – Robert Bridges	41

PHASE II: THE SURGE

4. *Youth eternal: "Thou wast not born for death"*

Are not the joys – William Blake	44
The Fly – William Blake	44
Lochinvar – Sir Walter Scott	56
Ode to a Nightingale – John Keats	47
Echoes – Thomas Moore	50
Stanzas Written on the Road Between Florence and Pisa – George Gordon, Lord Byron	50
Ballad: Time of Roses – Thomas Hood	51
No Coward Soul Is Mine – Emily Brontë	52
God's Grandeur – Gerard Manley Hopkins	53
The Rose of the World – William Butler Yeats	54

5. *Love and beauty: "She walks in beauty, like the night"*

A Red, Red Rose – Robert Burns	55
She Walks in Beauty – George Gordon, Lord Byron	56
Stanzas for Music – George Gordon, Lord Byron	57
Bright Star – John Keats	57
Love's Philosophy – Percy Bysshe Shelley	58
Song – Thomas Lovell Beddoes	59
The Lost Mistress – Robert Browning	59
Meeting at Night – Robert Browning	60
A Birthday – Christina Georgina Rossetti	61
Love Lives Beyond the Tomb – John Clare	62
Pied Beauty – Gerard Manley Hopkins	63

I Love All Beauteous Things – Robert Bridges	63
At Night – Alice Meynell	64
After the Visit – Thomas Hardy	64

6. *Resonance: "I hear lake water lapping"*

The Eolian Harp – Samuel Taylor Coleridge	66
There Was a Boy – William Wordsworth	68
My Heart Leaps Up – William Wordsworth	69
The Solitary Reaper – William Wordsworth	70
I'm Happiest When Most Away – Emily Brontë	71
Stanzas: 'Often rebuked, yet always back returning' – Emily Brontë	71
Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	72
In the Valley of Caunteretz – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	73
The Lake Isle of Innisfree – William Butler Yeats	73
In Time of "The Breaking of Nations" – Thomas Hardy	74

7. *The journey out: "The wind's song and the white sail's shaking"*

Parting at Morning – Robert Browning	75
A Wet Sheet and a Flowing Sea – Allan Cunningham	75
The Vagabond – Robert Louis Stevenson	76
Sea Fever – John Masefield	77
When I Set Out for Lyonesse – Thomas Hardy	78

8. *Passion, desire, despair: "A sunny pleasure dome with caves of ice"*

Kubla Khan – Samuel Taylor Coleridge	79
Strange Fits of Passion Have I Known – William Wordsworth	81
A Dirge – Percy Bysshe Shelley	82
To Constantia, Singing – Percy Bysshe Shelley	82
The Faithless Knight – Caroline Norton	84
Rondeau ('Jenny Kissed Me') – Leigh Hunt	85
Courage – Matthew Arnold	85
Song – George Darley	86
Elaine's Song – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	87
No Second Troy – William Butler Yeats	88

<i>9. Forces of nature: "I Am the Daughter of Earth and Water"</i>		I Dug, Beneath the Cypress Shade – Thomas Love Peacock	114
The Tyger – William Blake	89	Surprised by Joy – William Wordsworth	115
The Cloud – Percy Bysshe Shelley	90	So We'll Go No More a Roving – George Gordon, Lord Byron	116
The Kraken – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	93	Archy's Song (from Charles I – 'A Widow Bird Sate Mourning') – Percy Bysshe Shelley	116
The Eagle – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	93	Mariana – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	117
The Windhover – Gerard Manley Hopkins	94	Mary: It Is the Evening Hour – John Clare	119
<i>10. Revolution, violence, war: "And who shall bid us nay?"</i>		Remembrance – Emily Brontë	120
Day – William Blake	95	A Year's Spinning – Elizabeth Barrett Browning	122
The Rights of Woman – Anna Letitia Barbauld	95	A Leave-Taking – Algernon Charles Swinburne	123
Jerusalem ('And did those feet in ancient time') – William Blake	96	Neutral Tones – Thomas Hardy	125
England in 1819 – Percy Bysshe Shelley	97	A Garden by the Sea – William Morris	125
When a Man Hath No Freedom to Fight for at Home – George Gordon, Lord Byron	98	A Farewell – Coventry Patmore	127
The Song of the Western Men – Robert Stephen Hawker	98	The Garden of Shadow – Ernest Christopher Dowson	128
The War-song of Dinas Vawr – Thomas Love Peacock	99	Bredon Hill – A.E. Housman	128
The People's Anthem ('When wilt thou save the people?') – Ebenezer Elliott	101	The Voice – Thomas Hardy	129
The Charge of the Light Brigade – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	102	After a Journey – Thomas Hardy	129
A Death Song – William Morris	104	<i>13. Lost response: "The white cup shrivels round the golden heart"</i>	
PHASE III: BEREAVEMENT		The Old Familiar Faces – Charles Lamb	132
<i>11. Fall: "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"</i>		Coronach – Walter Scott	133
To Autumn – John Keats	106	To Marguerite: Continued – Matthew Arnold	134
Ode: Autumn – Thomas Hood	107	Dover Beach – Matthew Arnold	135
The Mermaidens' Vesper Hymn – George Darley	109	Two In the Campagna – Robert Browning	136
Autumn Idleness – Dante Gabriel Rossetti	110	Young and Old – Charles Kingsley	139
Binsey Poplars – Gerard Manley Hopkins	110	Barren Spring – Dante Gabriel Rossetti	140
<i>12. Lost love: "Let us go hence my songs; she will not hear"</i>		The Thread of Life – Christina Georgina Rossetti	140
She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways – William Wordsworth	111	The Listeners – Walter de la Mare	142
Three Years She Grew – William Wordsworth	111	As the Team's Head Brass – Edward Thomas	143
Rose Aylmer – Walter Savage Landor	114	<i>14. Lost innocence: "Tomb-stones where flowers should be"</i>	
		The Garden of Love – William Blake	145
		A Poison Tree – William Blake	146
		The Sick Rose – William Blake	146

When We Two Parted – George Gordon, Lord Byron	147
An Apple-Gathering – Christina Georgina Rossetti	148
From Modern Love (50) – George Meredith	150
The Toys – Coventry Patmore	150
Spring and Fall – Gerard Manley Hopkins	151
Hélas – Oscar Wilde	152

15. Disenchantment: “They lie with bitter apples in their hands”

Harp of the North, Farewell! – Walter Scott	153
Stanzas Written in Dejection-December 1818, Near Naples – Percy Bysshe Shelley	154
Ode on Melancholy – John Keats	154
The Flower That Smiles Today – Percy Bysshe Shelley	157
Lift Not the Painted Veil – Percy Bysshe Shelley	158
Break, Break, Break – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	158
The Nameless One – James Clarence Mangan	159
The Woodspurge – Dante Gabriel Rossetti	161
The Orchard-Pit – Dante Gabriel Rossetti	162
Into My Heart an Air That Kills – A.E. Housman	163
The Way Through the Woods – Rudyard Kipling	163

16. Approaching darkness: “If winter comes, can spring be far behind?”

Languid, and Sad, and Slow – William Lisle Bowles	165
Ode to the West Wind – Percy Bysshe Shelley	166
If Thou Wilt Ease Thine Heart – Thomas Lovell Beddoes	169
The Meadows in Spring – Edward FitzGerald	169
Ulysses – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	172
In Tenebris – Thomas Hardy	174
The Call – Charlotte Mew	175

PHASE IV: THE STARLIT NIGHT

17. Night come: “This fragile frame at eve”

To Night – Charlotte Smith	178
Frost at Midnight – Samuel Taylor Coleridge	179
To the Moon – Percy Bysshe Shelley	181
Silence – Thomas Hood	181
To Night – Joseph Blanco White	182
I Look Into My Glass – Thomas Hardy	183

18. Time and the past: “The same winds sang and the same waves whitened”

Dover Cliffs – William Lisle Bowles	184
My Days Among the Dead Are Past – By Robert Southey	184
Ode on a Grecian Urn – John Keats	185
I Remember, I Remember – Thomas Hood	187
Tears, Idle Tears – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	188
Sudden Light – Dante Gabriel Rossetti	189
As Slow Our Ship – Thomas Moore	190
A Forsaken Garden – Algernon Charles Swinburne	191
At Castle Boterel – Thomas Hardy	194

19. Man ephemeral: “And we drop like the fruits of a tree”

The Destruction of Sennacherib – George Gordon, Lord Byron	196
Ozymandias – Percy Bysshe Shelley	197
The Leveller – Bryan Waller Procter (Barry Cornwall)	197
The Splendor Falls – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	198
The Bourne – Christina Georgina Rossetti	199
Dirge in Woods – George Meredith	200
They Are Not Long – Ernest Dowson	200
Cities and Thrones and Powers – Rudyard Kipling	201

20. Death and posterity: “And if thou wilt, remember”

To–(‘Music, when soft voices die’) – Percy Bysshe Shelley	202
---	-----

Stanzas – Emily Brontë	202	<i>23. Visions of death and transcendence: “It is a land with neither night nor day”</i>	
Song – Christina Georgina Rossetti	203	Darkness – George Gordon, Lord Byron	228
Remember – Christina Georgina Rossetti	204	To Jane (“The keen stars were twinkling”) – Percy Bysshe Shelley	230
After Death – Christina Georgina Rossetti	204	Past Ruined Iliion – Walter Savage Landor	231
The Soldier – Rupert Brooke	205	Cobwebs – Christina Georgina Rossetti	232
		Prospice – Robert Browning	232
<i>21. Death, resignation, relief: “Twilight and evening bell”</i>		Invictus – William Ernest Henley	233
Sonnet To Sleep – John Keats	206		
The Sleep – Elizabeth Barrett Browning	206	CODA: FINAL WORDS	
A Death-scene – Emily Brontë	208		
Stars – Emily Brontë	210	The Human Abstract – William Blake	236
I Am! – John Clare	212	Mutability – Percy Bysshe Shelley	237
On His Seventy-Fifth Birthday – Walter Savage Landor	213	Abou Ben Adhem – Leigh Hunt	237
Crossing the Bar – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	213	Say Not the Struggle Nought Availeth – Arthur Hugh Clough	238
The Whaups – Robert Louis Stevenson	214	Dream-Pedlary – Thomas Lovell Beddoes	238
Sleeping at Last – Christina Georgina Rossetti	214	Up-Hill – Christina Georgina Rossetti	239
Lights Out – Edward Thomas	215	Palladium – Matthew Arnold	240
		If – Rudyard Kipling	241
<i>22. Death, anxiety, fear: “Unwilling, alone we embark”</i>			241
When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be – John Keats	217	EPILOGUE	
La Belle Dame Sans Merci: A Ballad – John Keats	218	Well I Remember – Walter Savage Landor	244
The Inchcape Rock – Robert Southey	220		
Summer and Winter – Percy Bysshe Shelley	223	A NOTE ON THE POEMS	247
The Sands of Dee – Charles Kingsley	223		
The Sleeping House – Alfred, Lord Tennyson	224	LIST OF POETS AND POEMS	248
E Tenebris – Oscar Wilde	225		
No Worst, There Is None – Gerard Manley Hopkins	225	EDITORIAL BOARD	253
I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day – Gerard Manley Hopkins	226		
On a Dead Child – Robert Bridges	227		