

**Poetry Reading Group A**  
**Martha Nell Smith, leader**

Readings will be drawn from Emily Dickinson's letters and poems to Susan Huntington Gilbert Dickinson, 1850-1886.

Copies of *Open Me Carefully*, edited by Martha Nell Smith and Ellen Louise Hart, will be given to all reading group participants.

For reading ahead of time, consult *Writings by Susan Dickinson* (<http://www.emilydickinson.org/writings-by-susan-dickinson>), *Correspondence with Susan Dickinson* (<http://archive.emilydickinson.org/working/csd.php>), and the Digital Articles found at <http://www.emilydickinson.org/exhibitions/digital-articles>.

**Poetry Reading Group B**  
**Sophie Mayer & Greg Mattingly, co-leaders**

*Poems are listed in order of appearance in the brief introduction we will give before we all discuss the subject:*

- « The Soul selects her own Society – » (J303/ F409)
- « Sweet Mountains – Ye tell Me no lie – » (J722/ F745)
- « A Word made Flesh is seldom » (J1651/ F1715)
- « Because the Bee may blameless hum » (J869/ F909)
- « The most important population » (J1746/ F1764)
- « His little Hearse like Figure » (J1522/ F1547)
- « They shut me up in Prose – » (J613/ F445)
- « I dwell in Possibility – » (J657/ F466)
- « Some keep the Sabbath going to Church – » (J324/ F236)
- « I'm ceded – I've stopped being Theirs – » (J508/ F353)
- « I think I was enchanted » (J593/ F627)
- « There came a Day at Summer's full, » (J322/ F325)
- « Because I could not stop for Death » (J712/ F479)
- « One need not be a Chamber – to be Haunted – » (J670/ F407)
- « I heard a Fly buzz – when I died – » (J465/ F591)
- « Experiment escorts us last – » (J1770/ F1181)
- « Funny – to be a Century – » (J345/ F)
- « Good to hide, and hear 'em hunt ! » (J842/ F945)
- « I'm Nobody! Who are you? » (J288/ F260)

In the Thomas H. Johnson's edition of *Letters* (1958): L260/ L261/ L476c/ L342a/ 342b

**Reading List for Reading Seminar A:  
“Reading Dickinson and Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”**

**Seminar Leader: Stephanie Farrar (U of Wisconsin, Eau Claire)**

Readings are available to download here :

<http://www.emilydickinsoninternationalsociety.org/node/517>

*Poems:*

“Of Tribulation - these are They,” (F328)  
“Some Rainbow - coming from the Fair!” (F162)  
“A Solemn thing - it was - I said- ” (F307)  
“I think the Hemlock likes to stand” (F400)  
“It always felt to me - a wrong” (F521)  
“Let us play Yesterday- ” (F754)  
“A Dying Tiger- moaned for Drink” (F529)  
“Removed from Accident of Loss” (F417)  
“The Malay - took the Pearl -”(F451)  
“The Black Berry - wears a Thorn” (548)  
“It makes no difference abroad” (F686)  
“Publication is the Auction” (F788)  
“Mine - by the Right of the White Election!” (F411)  
“Color – Caste - Denomination” (F836)  
“A Toad can die of Light” (F419)  
“What if I say I shall not wait!” (F305)  
“As the Starved Maelstrom laps the Navies” (F1064)  
“I am afraid to own a Body -” (F1050)

*Secondary Sources:*

Bennett, Paula “‘The Negro Never Knew’: Emily Dickinson and Racial Typology in the Nineteenth-Century”

Finnerty, Páraic. “‘We think of others possessing you with the throes of Othello’: Dickinson Playing Othello, Race, and Tommaso Salvini”

Friedlander, Benjamin. “Auctions of the Mind: Emily Dickinson and Abolition”

Hsu, Li-Hsin. “Emily Dickinson’s Asian Consumption”

Pollak, Vivian. “Dickinson and the Poetics of Whiteness”

Richards, Eliza. “ ‘How News Must Feel When Travelling’: Dickinson And Civil War Media”

## Reading List for Reading Seminar B

### “Vesuvius@Home: Adrienne Rich’s Emily Dickinson in our Erupting World”

Leader: Renée Bergland (Simmons College)

In her 1976 essay “Vesuvius at Home: The Power of Emily Dickinson” Adrienne Rich remarked, “To recognize and acknowledge our own interior power has always been a patch mined with risks for women; to acknowledge that power and commit oneself to it as Emily Dickinson did was an immense decision.” More than forty years later, we sometimes overlook the immense riskiness—and the feminist power—of Dickinson’s work. In this reading group, we will discuss Adrienne Rich’s landmark essay on Dickinson in light of subsequent feminist scholarship, pedagogy and social change. Our primary focus will be “Vesuvius at Home” and the poems to which it refers. Brief reflective reviews by Marianne Noble and Kate Daniels will provide good jumping off points for discussions of feminist pedagogy and experience. In addition, we will explore the implications of recent scholarly articles on Adrienne Rich. How does current feminist thinking about human rights, biopolitics, the politics of emotion, and postsecularity help us to understand Adrienne Rich’s Dickinson? How do these ideas change our own understandings of Dickinson?

The readings are available on google drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15tCHtZrRKLOGNyZ\\_Ztlowl8H8zrPrG0h?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15tCHtZrRKLOGNyZ_Ztlowl8H8zrPrG0h?usp=sharing)

#### Primary Reading:

Adrienne Rich, “Vesuvius at Home: The Power of Emily Dickinson.” *Parnassus Review* vol. 5, no.1 (1976) <http://parnassusreview.com/archives/416>.

#### Short Reviews:

Daniels, Kate. “From a Once-Young Feminist: Remembering Adrienne Rich.” *The Women's Review of Books* vol. 29, no. 4 (July/August 2012) pp. 18-19.

Noble, Marianne. “Thirty-Fifth-Anniversary Reflections.” *Legacy* vol. 31, no. 1 (2014) pp. 113-114.

Rankine, Claudia. “Introduction.” *Collected Poems 1950-2012*, by Adrienne Rich. W.W. Norton, 2016, xxxvii-xlvi.

#### Recent Critical Essays:

Clark, Miriam Marty. “Human Rights and the Work of Lyric in Adrienne Rich.” *The Cambridge Quarterly* vol. 38, no. 1 (2009) pp. 45-65.

Haines, Christian P. “The Impersonal is Political: Adrienne Rich’s *The Dream of a Common Language*, Feminism, and the Art of Biopolitics.” *Cultural Critique* vol. 96 (2017) pp. 178-215.

Neilson, Jeffrey. “‘No Poetry Will Serve’: The Cruel Optimism of Adrienne Rich’s Last Poems” *Genre*, vol. 49, no. 3 (December 2016) pp. 331-357.