**A list of poems from *Dead Poets Society***

[Walden](http://eserver.org/thoreau/walden00.html), By Henry David Thoreau

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.” [*Where I Lived, and What I Lived For*](http://eserver.org/thoreau/walden02.html#seven)

[The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost](http://www.bartleby.com/119/1.html)

Referred to by Mr. Keating during one of his lessons.

[To the Virgins, by Robert Herrick](http://www.bartleby.com/40/209.html)

Read during first class with Keating to introduce "carpe diem."

[O Captain, my Captain, by Walt Whitman](http://www.bartleby.com/142/193.html)

Referred to by Mr. Keating during one of his lessons; also a reference to what he suggest the students call him.

[Ulysses,\_ by Alfred Lord Tennyson](http://www.metalvortex.com/poems/ulysses-.htm)

Read by Neil Perry during one of the Dead Poets Society meeting in the cave.

[Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day, (a sonnet) by William Shakespeare](http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~richie/poetry/html/aupoem160.html)

First poem read by Charlie Dalton (Nuwanda) to the girls he brought to the Dead Poets Society meeting.

[She Walks in Beauty, by Lord Byron](http://www.bartleby.com/101/600.html)

Second poem read by Charlie Dalton (Nuwanda) to the girls he brought to the Dead Poets Society meeting.

[Puck’s speech at the end of A Midsummer Night’s Dream](http://the-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/midsummer/midsummer.5.1.html)

Lines spoken by Neil at the end of the play. He played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

**Memorable Quotes**

[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for. To quote from Whitman, "O me! O life!... of the questions of these recurring; of the endless trains of the faithless... of cities filled with the foolish; what good amid these, O me, O life?" Answer. That you are here - that life exists, and identity; that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. That the powerful play \*goes on\* and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?

**[John Keating](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/)**: Close your eyes, close your eyes! Close 'em! Now, describe what you see.   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): Uh, I-I close my eyes.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): Yes.   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): Uh, and this image floats beside me.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): A sweaty-toothed madman.   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): A sweaty-toothed madman with a stare that pounds my brain.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): Oh, that's \*excellent\*! Now, give him action - make him do something!   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): H-His hands reach out and choke me.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): That's it! Wonderful, wonderful!   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): And all the time he's mumbling.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): What's he mumbling?   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): Mumbling truth.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): Yeah, yes.   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): Truth like-like a blanket that always leaves your feet cold.   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): [*some of the class start to laugh*] Forget them, forget them! Stay with the blanket. Tell me about that blanket!   
[**Todd Anderson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000160/): Y-Y-You push it, stretch it, it'll never be enough. You kick at it, beat it, it'll never cover any of us. From the moment we enter crying t-to the moment we leave dying, it'll just cover your face as you wail and cry and scream.   
[*long pause then class applauds*]   
[**John Keating**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/): Don't you forget this.

***Dead Poets Society***

**Exploring the Literary Connections in the Movie**

**Directions**: Your homework for the next three nights consists of completing the following assignment. Be sure to answer the questions thoroughly and complete the research thoughtfully.

1. Read the following quote by Professor John Keating from the movie *Dead Poets Society.* What do you think it means? Why? How does this connect to romanticism?

*We don’t read and write poetry because it’s cute. We read and write poetry because we are*

*members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law,*

*business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty,*

*romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.”*

1. Read the following quote by Professor John Keating from the movie *Dead Poets Society.* What do you think it means? Explain. How does this connect to romanticism?

*I stand upon my desk to remind myself that we must constantly look at things a different way. The*

*world looks very different up here . . . Just when you think you think you know something you*

*have to look at it in another way . . . When you read, don’t just consider what the author thinks, you must consider what you think.*

1. Look at the list of literary works on the other side of this page. Choose one poem to read and analyze. Complete the following:
   1. Summarize the poem. What is it about?
   2. Analyze the poem. What is a theme expressed in this poem? Remember, a theme is more than one word. How did you interpret the poem? As always, be sure to use quotations from the piece to explain your analysis. As we have discussed earlier in the year, a poem has a speaker. Be sure to consider the speaker of the poem.
   3. Explain HOW this poem adds to the overall meaning of the film. Why did the poem fit the scene in which it was referenced? Why do you think the director and/or writer of the film decided to use this poem in the film?
2. Write a brief reflection of the movie. Did you like it? Why or why not? Additionally, why is this the perfect movie to conclude romanticism?

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*[Keating stands on his desk]*[***John Keating***](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/)*: Why do I stand up here? Anybody?*[***Dalton***](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0360796/)*: To feel taller!*[***John Keating***](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/)*: No!   
[Dings a bell with his foot]*[***John Keating***](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000245/)*: Thank you for playing Mr. Dalton. I stand upon my desk to remind myself that we must constantly look at things in a different way.*