The Mercury Reader
Editor’s Choice
Short Readings*
Selections marked ‘New’ available January 2007

THE READING AND WRITING PROCESS (includes Judy Brady, Why I Want a Wife)
REVISION
ARGUMENT (includes Maya Angelou, Graduation)

Family and Community
Introduction
Annie Dillard, So This Was Adolescence
Seamus Heaney, Mid-Term Break
Jamaica Kincaid, Girl
NEW! Primo Levi, My House
Alice Walker, The Place Where I Was Born
Elizabeth Wong, The Struggle to be an All-American Girl

Coming of Age
Introduction
David Bottoms, Sign for My Father, Who Stressed the Bunt
Kate Chopin, The Story of an Hour
Jamaica Kincaid, from On Seeing England for the First Time
Phyllis Schneider, Memory: Tips You’ll Never Forget
NEW! David Sedaris, The End of the Affair

Education and Learning
Introduction
Isaac Asimov, What is Intelligence, Anyway?
NEW! James Barszcz, Can You Be Educated From a Distance?
Janice Castro and Dan Cook, Spanglish
Langston Hughes, Theme for English B
NEW! Frances Osborne, In Unhistoric Acts Does True History Lie
Gary B. Trudeau, Student Friendly Courses

* Contents and availability subject to change.
Gender and Sexuality
Introduction
Margaret Atwood, The Female Body
Ellen Goodman, The “Reasonable Woman” Is an Effective Standard to Establish Harassment
Suzanne Britt Jordan, That Lean and Hungry Look
Grace Paley, Love

Work and Leisure
Introduction
Wyn Cooper, Fun
NEW! Rick Moody, The Joy and Enthusiasm of Reading
NEW! Sarah Vowell, Pop-A-Shot
Robert Wallace, The Double Play

Popular Culture
Introduction
Ian Frazier, Trust Me, In These Parts, Hot Dogs Actually Repel Bears
Ed Fulginti, Do-Gooders Need to Let Us Decide for Ourselves What is Harmful
Heather Havrilesky, Beach Blanket Bimbology
Ira C. Herbert, Coca Cola Letters
NEW! Kay S. Hymowitz, Tweens: Ten Going on Sixteen
John O’Brien, Cinderella on a Talk Show
Mike Ross, This Eminem May Melt Your Ears
David E. Thigpen, Deliverance

Science and Technology
Introduction
Rachel Carson, A Fable for Tomorrow
Christopher John Farley, Nirvana is a Click Away
Al Griffin, Sony: 36-Inch HD-Ready TV
Jeffrey Goldberg, Microbes on the Move
NEW! Jennifer Lee, I Think Therefore IM
Clarence Page, Candid Dialogue Key to Curbing Race Generalizations
Carolyn Pavia-Rauchman, Honda Insight
Kim Stanley Robinson, Why We Should Go to Mars
Politics and Society

Introduction
- Edward Abbey, The Right to Arms
- Elizabeth Ashe, The Devastation is Terrible
- John Major, There Is No Worldwide Terrorist Conspiracy
- Orlando Patterson, Race Over
- Scott Russell Sanders, Death of a Homeless Man

Ethics and Values

Introduction
- Barbara Lawrence, Four-Letter Words Can Hurt You
- Emma Lazarus, The New Colossus
- Philip Levine, The Simple Truth
- Anna Quindlen, Abortion is Too Complex to Feel All One Way About
- Elie Wiesel, The Perils of Indifference
- Richard Wilbur, The Death of a Toad

Multiculturalism and Diversity

Introduction
- Walter Mosley, An African-American Appeal for Peace
- Azar Nafisi, Mysterious Connections that Link Us Together
- Studs Terkel, Roberto Acuna, Migrant Farm Worker