

WHS Book Rationale

Title: *Introduction to Literature*
(Pearson Custom Library)

Author: an anthology, selections made by
the A.P. English teachers

- **Intended Audience**

A.P. English Literature and Composition students—this is a college level course

- **Brief summary and educational significance**

A collection that includes essays reading and interpreting literature, critical essays on specific pieces of literature, the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, and a variety of poems in various styles, on a wide range of themes, from more than 60 poets writing over five decades—from William Shakespeare, to John Keats, to Billy Collins.

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**

This book is used primarily to put into practice the skills of analyzing and writing about literature, particularly poetry. For this reason, the pieces include a variety of literary elements so students can confront a wide range of themes, structures, poetic movements, and ways of employing figurative language, rhyme, meter, tone, etc.

- **Potential problems**

Some poems include profanity and there are poems addressing the subjects of sex, suicide, racial prejudice, eating disorders.

- **Addressing potential problems**

The most effective way to address potential problems is to use the book as intended—as a tool for examining and discussing the endless variety of choices writers, particularly poets, make, and to help students understand that, contrary to the stereotype of “hearts and flowers” as the focus of poetry, the most influential and respected poets over generations have proven that every subject is material for poetry.