For this poem we will focus on CONTEXT and ALLUSION.

CONTEXT: circumstances that inform or shape an event or a text.

ALLUSION: reference within a text to texts or events outside the text: literary, historical, mythological etc.

The literary canon is not a cannon.

The literary canon is
- the collection of representative "great works";
- determined by a form of cultural consensus;
- often reflects the particular concerns and values of a given age, culture, or dominant group.
- the "100 texts you should read."

For the poem, "... Significant Birthday,"
- DISCUSS the relationship between the occasion of the poem and its context:
  - The Norton Anthology of Poetry
  - Literary History
- IDENTIFY a pattern in the allusions in the poem to other poems in the literary canon.
What is the relationship between the literary canon and the speaker’s birthday?

How does the FORM of the poem illuminate the CONTENT or THEME of the poem?