

WHAT COMMONALITY,  
USUALLY HIDDEN,  
DO THESE AUTHORS SHARE?

British

W. H. Auden  
Francis Bacon  
Charlotte Brontë  
Lord Byron  
Geoffrey Chaucer  
E. M. Forster  
Gerard Manley Hopkins  
A. E. Housman  
Christopher Marlowe  
Sir Walter Raleigh  
Christina Rossetti  
William Shakespeare  
Sir Philip Sidney  
Alfred Lord Tennyson  
Oscar Wilde  
Virginia Woolf

American

Edward Albee  
Horatio Alger  
Sherwood Anderson  
James Baldwin  
Truman Capote  
Willa Cather  
E. E. Cummings  
Emily Dickinson  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
William Faulkner  
Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Ernest Hemingway  
Langston Hughes  
Christopher Isherwood  
Amy Lowell  
Edgar Lee Masters  
Herman Melville  
Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Adrienne Rich  
Gertrude Stein  
Gore Vidal  
Walt Whitman  
Thornton Wilder  
Tennessee Williams  
William Carlos Williams

Answers:

1. All appear in standard junior and senior high school anthologies currently used in our schools.
2. Most of these authors had lesbian or gay male experiences.
3. The few others wrote about gay/lesbian experiences.
4. All were aware of homosexuality and either experienced it in their own lives or dealt with it in their literature.

Is it moral to deny our students these positive role models?

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