

## SATIRE

Philip B. Anderson

from "An Ode to Deconstruction" (c.1988)

Farewell to Chaucer, Milton, Pope,  
To cover them's beyond all hope;  
It's just "not practical," you see,  
To teach such stuff—when there's TV.  
The Future's ours if we can learn  
Just what old books we need to burn.

...

Let English departments know their place  
Let Shakespeare no more show his face,  
But come pop culture, politics,  
Posturing, pedagogical tricks  
That lead the students in a round  
Of shifting theory, jargoned sound.

...

Lo! See the triumph of the age,  
See dullness reach its final stage!