



# Literary Criticism

The public library has print and electronic resources that will aid consumers in evaluating and purchasing products. The most popular and useful sources are discussed below. If you have trouble finding information, please see a staff member. We're here to help!

**SUBJECTS:** (keywords to use when searching the online card catalog)

[Criticism](#)

[Literature, modern—20<sup>th</sup> century—History and criticism](#)

[Literature, modern—20<sup>th</sup> century—Bio-bibliography](#)

[Literature—Terminology](#)

[Literary form](#)

[Comic books, strips, etc.—History and criticism](#)

[Women and Literature—United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> Century](#)

[African Americans in Literature](#)

[English language—Terms and phrases](#)

[Literature, modern](#)

[Literature—Stories, plots, etc](#)

[English poetry](#)

[American poetry](#)

## ONLINE DATABASES:

[wakegov.com/libraries/electronicresources/databases/](http://wakegov.com/libraries/electronicresources/databases/)

### [Critical Companions to Popular Contemporary Writers](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

In-depth analysis of 46 current and best-selling authors from Julia Alvarez to Kurt Vonnegut.

### [Literary Reference Center \(EBSCO\)](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

A comprehensive literary reference source including literary criticisms, summaries, full text availability, reviews and more. Don't miss the digital ready reference section (upper right-hand corner on homepage of database).

### [Literature in Context](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

Readings and commentaries about the historical, social, and cultural aspects of major literary works from The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn to To Kill a Mockingbird.

### [Literature Resource Center \(Gale\)](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

A comprehensive literary reference source containing criticism, biographies and more.

## [NetLibrary](#)

Available in the library and at home; you must create an account to check books out. Thousands of full text reference and scholarly ebooks (digitized books) and a selection of downloadable audiobooks.

# BOOKS:

## General

[Bloom's Notes](#) by Harold Bloom [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** NonFiction 800s (each title varies)

These texts are the ideal aid for all students of literature, presenting concise, easy-to-understand biographical, critical, and bibliographical information on a specific literary work. Also provided are multiple sources for book reports and term papers with a wealth of information on literary works, authors, and major characters.

[Greenhaven Press Literary Companion](#) series by various [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** Nonfiction 800s (each title varies)

A series where each title contains an anthology of essays by scholars representing various perspectives and interpretations of certain literary novels and/or authors. The books provide criticism and discussions of meaning, structure, and the historical content as well as biographical information. They are organized in such a way that will give students a plethora of information in a largely accessible format. Each chapter heading is annotated, giving readers a chance to sample the content of the essays. Furthermore, each selection is introduced with background biographical data on the essay's author along with a summary of the content and the particular point of view represented. A reader-friendly and comprehensive resource for students and teachers of world literature.

[Major Literary Characters](#) series by various [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** NonFiction 800s (each title varies)

This series is the only major collection of criticism on widely studied fictional figures from world literature, bringing together a diverse array of the finest critical writing from around the world. Each volume includes Harold Bloom's essay "The Analysis of Character" and introductory essays on title characters.

[Modern Critical Interpretations](#) series by various [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** NonFiction 800s (each title varies)

These titles focus on 20th century works with themes of complex issues in society. The three books contain critical essays, which sometimes include comparisons to other well-known novels that probe the books' various layers. Each volume includes a detailed chronology of the author's life and detailed bibliographies.

[Modern Critical Views](#) series by various [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** NonFiction 800s (each title varies)

This is a series that examines the major works of major literary figures through full-length critical essays by expert literary critics. In addition, these titles feature a short biography on the featured author, a chronology of the author's life, and an introductory essay written by Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of the Humanities, Yale University.

[Novelists and Novels](#) by Harold Bloom

**Located:** NonFiction 809.3 BLOOM

A collection of critical writings about some of the greatest novelists in Western history, including Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Leo Tolstoy, James Joyce, and William Faulkner.

[Writers of English](#) series by various [this is a series: search this title in "series" in the library catalog]

**Located:** NonFiction 800s (each title varies)

These volumes provide biographical, critical, and bibliographical information on the most significant writers of fiction across several different genres.

## Reference (in library use only)

[Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism](#) published annually

**Located:** Reference (available in the library only)

Excerpts from criticism of the works of world authors from classical antiquity through the fourteenth century, from first appraisals to current evaluations.

[Contemporary Literary Criticism](#) published annually

Reference (available in the library only)

Each print volume in this long-standing series profiles approximately 6-8 novelists, poets, playwrights and other creative and nonfiction writers by providing full-text or excerpted criticism taken from books, magazines, literary reviews, newspapers and scholarly journals. Approximately 90-95% of critical essays are full text. Each of the approximately 200 essays per volume is prefaced by a full citation and annotation and most entries in the print series include an author portrait.

[Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook](#) published annually

Reference (available in the library only)

This annual compendium includes original material covering a given year's literary highlights, including obituaries and tributes. The Yearbook provides signed essays summarizing the year in poetry, fiction, biography, drama and children's books as well as scholarly articles, interviews, biographies and critical studies covering events, organizations, works, writers and the business of literature. Volumes include lists of award and honors winners; a necrology; a cumulative index and more.

[Nonfiction Classics for Students: presenting analysis, context and criticism on nonfiction works](#); edited by Elizabeth Thomason

**Located:** Reference 808.8 NONFI

Provides in-depth literary and historical background on the most commonly studied nonfiction essays, books, biographies and memoirs in a streamlined, easy-to-use format. Covering 15-20 works per volume, this reference series gives high school and undergraduate students an ideal starting point for class assignments, term papers and

special projects. Entries also include original critical essays written by academics in the field, supplemented by full or excerpted previously published essays. Each volume also provides approximately 50 illustrations, including historical maps where appropriate, a chronology of important literary and world events and a glossary of key terms. Volumes also include a comprehensive general index as well as author, theme and nationality/ethnicity indexes.

[Literary Movements for Students: presenting analysis, context and criticism on commonly studied literary movements](#); project editor David Galens

**Located:** Reference 809 LITER

Literary Movements for Students is designed to meet the needs of researchers studying literary movements and the specific works representative of various movements. Entries provide in-depth historical background information on each movement as well as modern critical interpretation of each movement's characteristic styles and themes.

[Modern American Literature](#); Compiled and edited by Dorothy Nyren Curley, Maurice Kramer, and Elaine Fialka Kramer.

**Located:** Reference 810.9

Literary criticism on 20<sup>th</sup> century American Literature.

[New Moulton's Guide to Literary Criticism](#); General editor Harold Bloom.

**Located:** Reference 820.9

Collected criticism of leading authors by their contemporaries.

[Novels for Students](#); published by Thomson Gale

**Located:** Reference 809.3 NOVEL

Each volume of Novels for Students contains easily accessible and content-rich discussions of the literary and historical background of 12 to 15 works from various cultures and time periods. Each novel included in this new resource was specially chosen by an advisory panel of teachers and librarians -- experts who have helped us define the information needs of students and ensure the age-appropriateness of this reference's content.

[Poetry Criticism](#) published annually

Reference (available in the library only)

Excerpts from criticism of the works of the most significant and widely studied poets of world literature

[Profiles of Notable Literary Works and the Historical Events that Influenced Them](#)

**Located:** Reference 809 PRO

This is a 12-volume series from Gale that examines world literature from a historical, rather than strictly literary, perspective. Volumes include highlights of African, Latin American, British, and Irish literature, among many others. The premise of the series is that literature offers clues to the history of its people and leads to insight on their perspectives, emotions, and actions.

[Something about the Author](#) published monthly

Reference (available in the library only)

Each volume of this series provides illustrated biographical articles on approximately 70 children's authors and artists. The series covers more than 10,000 individuals, ranging from established award winners to authors and illustrators who are just beginning their

careers. Entries cover: personal life, career, writings and works in progress, adaptations, additional sources and photographs.

**Twentieth Century Literary Criticism** published annually

Reference (available in the library only)

This highly useful series presents substantial excerpts from the best criticism on the major literary figures and nonfiction writers, including novelists, poets, playwrights and literary theorists, of 1900 to 1999 -- the era most frequently studied in high schools.

## **WEBSITES:**

### **Library Spot**

<http://www.libraryspot.com/litcrit.htm>

A free virtual library resource center for educators and students, librarians and their patrons, families, businesses and just about anyone exploring the Web for valuable research information.

### **Internet Public Library**

<http://www.ipl.org.ar/ref/litcrit/>

The Internet Public Library (IPL), is a public service organization and learning/teaching environment at the University of Michigan School of Information.

--Created by Katie Knight, April 2008