



Literary Criticism & Book Reviews

Current controversial topics provide good material for English essays, research papers or speeches.

Finding Critical Information in Books:

The library may have books about a specific author's life and his/her writings. Use the online catalog to locate these books. Do a **subject search** using the author's name by entering last name first. You might also do a keyword search using the author's last name and a word or two from the title of the work you are analyzing (for example: Hemingway farewell arms). General books about an author can also be useful in discussing the author's style, characters, or use of certain literary themes. Use the index in general books to find comments about a particular work.

Reference Sources for Critical Analysis and Biographical Information:

American Writers **Ref PS129.A55 v.1-4 +Supps.**
British Writers Ref **PR85.B688 v.1-8 +Supps.**

These collections of essays provide substantial biographical and literary information on each American or British author. The authors included in this set are from all periods of American and British literary history.

British Writers Classics **Ref PR85 .B689 v.1+**

This set contains biographical essays about British or Commonwealth writers with emphasis on each writer's major/classic literary work(s).

Contemporary Authors (CA)

Contemporary Authors: New Revision (CANR)

Ref Z1224

This is a multi-volume set used chiefly for biographical information on authors. The paperbound

Contemporary Authors Cumulative Index to this set is very important because it leads to excellent articles in other series by this publisher, such as *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (DLB), *Black Writers* (BW) and *Hispanic Writers* (HW). **Note:** Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**.

Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)

Ref PN771.C59 v.1+

This set contains lengthy excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and script writers living from 1960 to the present. Use the cumulative index in the latest volume to find all references to an author in this set and related sets. Use the paperbound *CLC Cumulative Title Index* to find criticisms of specific titles. **Note:** Selected articles also available online. See **Galenet**.

Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)

Ref PN771.T9 v.1+

This set is related to CLC, but includes published criticism on authors who died between 1900 and 1960. Use the paperbound *TCLC Annual Cumulative Title Index* to find specific criticisms by title. In addition, every fourth volume contains sections on literary topics such as Surrealism, Holocaust Literature, Film Literature, etc. A cumulative index to these topics is included in each volume of TCLC.

Dictionary of Literary Biography (indexed in *Contemporary Authors Cumulative Index*)

These volumes are primarily in the PR and PS section of the Reference collection. Each volume features biographical essays on writers representing a particular topic, genre or nationality. **Note:** Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**.

Reference Sources for Critical Analysis and Biographical Information: *continued*

Critical Survey of Long Fiction: English Language Series Authors Ref PN3451.C7 v. 1-8

This set includes critical assessments of 272 authors of novels and novellas. Articles include a biography and an analysis of the author's most important works. Check the online catalog for additional *Magill* series such as *Masterplots*, *Masterplots II*, *American Fiction Series*, and *Critical Survey of Short Fiction*, *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*.

Novels for Students

Ref PN3365 .N68 v.1-18

This set presents analysis, context and criticism on commonly studied novels. It contains brief biographies of the authors. A cumulative Author/Title Index, cumulative Nationality/Ethnicity Index, and a volume specific Subject/Theme Index is provided at the end of each volume. *Drama for Students and Poetry for Students* are also available. Check the catalog for call numbers.

Full Text Electronic Resources and Internet Sites:

Access databases on campus, off campus or through campus' wireless network at:

<http://www.westvalley.edu/library/databases/>

You will need your **name** and **student ID** number to log in.

Galenet

Galenet is an electronic version of *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. It also includes the *Scribner's Writers Series* which contains 1600 full text articles.

Wilson Biographies

This database contains 400,000 full text biographies including many authors through the ages.

Proquest Direct

1986+

This web-based index to magazines, journals and newspapers can be used to find full-text book reviews, critical analysis and biographical information. Do a **Basic Search** using the author's name and/or key words from the title you are researching to find articles about your author. To find reviews of a particular work, click on the **More Search Options** link and enter the title of the book in the search box. Use the pull down tab for **Document Type** and select **Book Review** from the list.

Internet Public Library <http://www.ipl.org/ref/litcrit>

This web site indexes critical and biographical web sites about authors and their works. You can browse by author, title or by nationality and literary period.

Printed Periodical Sources for Critical Analysis:

Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

1900+

This printed index to periodical articles can be used to locate book reviews and author information going back to 1900. Starting with the 1976 volume, book reviews are listed in the back of each volume.

Book Review Digest

1905 - 2002

A printed index to book reviews in magazines and newspapers. Excerpts of reviews are included. Books are listed alphabetically, by author, in the year the work was published or the year following.