



Short Story Criticism

Finding Critical Information in Books:

The library may have books ABOUT a specific author's life and his/her writings. Use the on-line catalog to locate these books. Do a **subject search** using the author's name by entering last name first (for example: jackson, shirley). 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: shirley jackson the lottery). 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 story. To find stories BY a particular author, do an **author search** rather than a subject search.

Reference Sources for Critical Analysis:

Short Story Criticism (SSC)

Ref PN3373.S386

This multi-volume set presents excerpts from criticisms of short stories and includes biographical material on the authors. Use the *Cumulative Author Index* in the latest volume to find all references to an author in this set. Each volume also contains *Cumulative Topic and Nationality Indexes*. Use the paperbound *Cumulative Title Index* to find criticism of specific short story titles.

Reference Guide to Short Fiction

Ref PN3373.R36 1994

This one volume work includes entries on the most significant writers of short fiction from the 19th and 20th centuries. Each entry includes a biography, a complete list of the writer's published books, a selected list of bibliographies and critical studies on the writer and a signed critical essay.

Critical Survey of Short Fiction

Ref PN3321.C7

This 7 volume set covers individual authors and considers the influence, story characteristics and analysis of the writer's short fiction. The 7th volume includes essays covering all aspects of the short story and its literary devices. Check the online catalog under author, Magill, Frank, for additional *Magill* series, such as *Masterplots*, *Masterplots II*, *American Fiction Series*, *Women's Literature Series* and *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*. In many of the Magill sets you look up specific works by their title.

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 scriptwriters living from 1960 to the present. Use the *Cumulative Author Index* in the latest volume to find all references to an author in this set and related sets. Each volume also contains *Cumulative Topic and Nationality Indexes*. Use the paperbound *CLC Cumulative Title Index* to find criticism of specific titles. *Note: Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**

Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)

Ref PN771.T9

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 criticism of specific titles. 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

Twentieth-Century Short Story Explication

Ref PN3373.S5W33

This publication lists sources of interpretive criticism for short stories published from 1900-1975. Five supplements and a "New Series" volume cover dates through 1990. Look under the author's name and the title of a particular story to locate references.

Contemporary Authors (CA)

Contemporary Authors: New Revision (CANR)

Ref Z1224

This multi-volume set is used chiefly for biographical information on authors. The paperbound ***Contemporary Authors Cumulative Index*** 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: CA and CANR also available on-line. See **Galenet**

Dictionary of Literary Biography (DLB) (call numbers vary, use 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: Also available on-line. See **Galenet**

Periodical Sources for Critical Analysis:

Proquest Direct

1986+

This web-based index to 4800 magazines, journals and newspapers can be used to find reviews, critical analysis and biographical information. This database is accessible from the Library's "***Find Articles***" page. Do a ***Basic Search*** using an author's name and/or key words from a specific title or topic to find articles.

Full Text Electronic Resources and Internet Sites:

Galenet

This is an electronic version of ***Contemporary Authors***, ***Contemporary Literary Criticism*** and the ***Dictionary of Literary Biography***. Search all three databases or choose one of the databases by clicking on the appropriate tab. Enter the author's name in natural order or last name first. Galenet also includes the ***Scribner's Writers Series***, which contains more than 1600 "15-20 page signed essays" on authors and literary genres. This database is accessible from the Library's "***Find Articles***" page.

Wilson Biographies

This database contains 140,000 full-text biographies including many authors through the ages. This database is accessible from the Library's "***Find Articles***" page.

Internet Public Library

www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/

This web site contains links to critical and biographical web sites about authors and their works. This site can be browsed by author, title or by nationality and literary period.

****SEARCH FROM HOME OR YOUR WIRELESS LAPTOP:** You can search the West Valley College Library's **Full Text Electronic databases** from home or your wireless laptop if you are a currently enrolled student. Go to <http://wvclibrary.info> and click on the "Easy Access" page icon and go to "***Find Articles.***" Click the **off-campus** link for the database you want to search. You will need your name and student ID number to log in to the databases.