Drama 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. 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: Shakespeare hamlet). 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. To find plays BY a particular author, do an author search rather than a subject search. Remember, that books are available from other libraries through LINK+.

Reference Sources for Critical Analysis and Biographical Information:

American Drama, 1909-1982  Ref Z5781.s16 1984 pt. 1
American Drama Criticism: Interpretations 1890-1977, 2ed.  Ref PS332 D7P3 1979
American Drama Criticism: Supplement 1 to 2nd edition  Ref PS332 D7 P31979

Drama Criticism (DC) Ref PN1601.D59
This ongoing series presents the most frequently studied playwrights of all time periods and nationalities, excluding Shakespeare. Each volume discusses 12 to 15 authors. Cumulative author, nationality and play title indexes are found in the last volume.

Drama for Students (Dfs) Ref PN1701.D73 Shakespeare for Students  Ref PR2987.S472
These sets are designed to provide readers with a guide to understanding commonly studied dramas from the fifth century B.C. to the 1990s. A cumulative author/title index is provided at the end of each volume.

European Drama Criticism, 1900-1975/compiled by Helen H. Palmer  Ref Z5781.P21977

Critical Survey of Drama: Revised English Language Series Ref PR623.C75 1994
Articles in this set give commentaries on contemporary and classical playwrights’ works. Biographical information and critical sources are also included.

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 Literary Reference Center.

Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism
Includes authors from antiquity through 1399.

Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism
Includes authors who died between 1800 and 1899.
*Shakespearean Criticism*
Includes criticism about Shakespeare's works from their earliest publication till today.

*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

*Contemporary Authors (CA) Contemporary Authors: New Revision (CANR)*
Ref Z1224
This set is chiefly used to obtain 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*: Selected articles also available on-line. See *Literary Reference Center.*

*Dictionary of Literary Biography*
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 *Literary Reference Center.*

*Masterplots II Drama Series*
Ref PN6112.5M371990 v1-4

*The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*  
Ref PN1861 C652007 v1-2

*Modern drama; a checklist of critical literature on 20th century plays*  
Ref Z5781 A35

*American Writers*
Ref PS129.A55

*British Writers*
Ref PR85.B688

*The Encyclopedia of Stage Plays into Film*
Ref PN1997.85.T5442001
This volume provides basic information about significant plays and their screen

**FULL TEXT ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**
Access databases on campus, off campus or through campus’ wireless network at:  
[http://www.westvalley.edu/library/databases/](http://www.westvalley.edu/library/databases/)
You will need your name and student ID number to log in.

*Literary Reference Center*
Literary criticism, critical essays on contemporary authors/works and literary genres.

*Proquest Direct* 1986+
This web-based index to magazines, journals and newspapers can be used to find reviews, critical analysis and biographical information. Do a *Basic Search* using an author’s name and/or key words from a specific title or topic to find articles. To find reviews of a particular work, click on the *More Search Options* link, enter the title of your work in the search box and then select “*Review*” from the *Document Type* pull down list.

*Wilson Biographies*
Contains 400,000 full text biographies including many authors through the ages.

*Internet Public Library* [http://www.ipl.org/ref/litcrit](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.