

Major Reference Sources for Literary Criticism

Look at these resources to help select a similar book:

Beacham's Popular Fiction {Ref 809.3 Bea} - **American** {Ref 813.509 Bea}; **World** {Ref 809.83 Bea} - Access by author. Includes the publication history of works, biographies, social concerns, themes, and characters.

*****Excellent appendices covering social issues, themes, and other information that can help develop a theme~**

Novels for Students - {Ref 808 Nov}- Analysis, context and criticism on commonly studied novels. Each novel entry includes a "What Do I Read Next" section that offers suggestions for novels that have something in common with the chosen literary work (same author, similar theme, plot, setting, etc.). Entries for each novel included in this book also list themes for the novel. **Available online** (choose Gale, then *Gale Virtual Reference Library*) but not full text~in some cases the books will have more material!

EBSCO – NoveList Plus – Available from the TPL web page (you will need a TPL barcode). Check Class Assignments or Online Databases. Enter the title you know you want to use and from that record look for the *Find Similar Titles* button. Titles and summaries of similar books will be provided.

Once you are ready to start analyzing your books look at these first:

Gale - Many series of these books, produced by Gale. A cumulative index is found in volumes for some sets (the newer the volume the more complete the index); for others the index is a separate volume. We do not have all the books produced by Gale (they publish more every year), but Troy Public Library subscribes to **Literature Resource Center**, an online database, which makes available most of the material found in the book sets. We have sets for contemporary authors (CLC, CA, CANR) including authors who were living on or after 1960; twentieth century authors (TCLC) including authors of the 20th century who died prior to 1960; nineteenth century authors (NCLC); ancient writers (LC 1400-1800); Black American authors (BLC); short stories (SSC); drama (DC); poetry (PC). These sets all contain critical writings excerpted from essays, articles and letters. You can find out which of Gale's sources have information on your author or title by using Gale's Literary Index (a link has been provided on the 12AP class assignment page from the media center). If you cannot determine where to go for the resources listed in the index, check with Mrs. Isaac.

Harold Bloom books - Many authors covered. He has books that cover novels, characters, and authors. Also Bloom's notes and How to Write About.... To locate these books, use the automated catalog and look up either your author or book title as a subject browse. Remember to check the Troy School District and not just Troy High.

Novels for Students - See above.

Now you are ready to gather more information from the following resources:

Concise Major 21st-Century Writers ~ {Ref 920 Con} – Biographical statistics, list of works, and critical commentary. **Also available as an e-book in Gale Virtual Reference Center.*

Contemporary Novelists - {Ref 809.33 Bro} - Biographical statistics, list of works, and critical commentary.

Dictionary of Literary Biography – Biographical information and commentary on works, including discussion of historical events that may have influenced the writing. Lots of these, and very specific~ American Writers in Paris {810.90052 Roo}; American Novelists Since World War II {813.03 Ame}; American Screenwriters {Ref 828.92 Mor}; Twentieth Century Jewish Fiction Writers {813.5 Wal}; Victorian Novelists {823.809 Nad}. Many of these articles are also available through TPL’s Literature Resource Center database.

Encyclopedia of World Literature in the 20th Century – {Ref 803 Enc} Similar to Contemporary Novelists, but also includes regional types of literature (Ukrainian, for example) and literary movements (existentialism, for example).

Literary Newsmakers for Students - {Ref 809 Lit} “...scholarly examinations of recent books-fiction, non-fiction, and poetry-that have made the headlines”. Also available online through *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.

Literary Themes for Students – {Ref 809 Lit} Brings together well-known works of literature that share a common theme. Currently, this includes “The American Dream”. “War and Peace”, and “Race and Prejudice”. Also available online through *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.

Literature and Its Times - One series discusses American literature by era {Ref 809.933 Lit}. Reviews important events in history at the time of the novel, briefly discusses plot, theme, and critical reception of novel. Several volumes. Gale Publishing.

Magill’s Surveys American Literature {Ref 810.9 Mag}; Mystery and Detective Fiction {809.3 Cri}; World Literature - {Ref 809 Mag}; and 1,300 Critical Evaluations of Selected Novels and Plays {809 Mag}- Short biographies, overview/analysis of works.

Masterplots – {Ref 808.8 Mag} - Plot summaries, also has critiques. Access by title. Also available from the EBSCO database, *Literary Reference Center* (see info on last page of this handout).

Oxford Companions to: African American literature {Ref 810.8}; American literature {Ref 810 Har}; Classical literature {Ref 880.0321}; Canadian history and literature {REF 971 Sto}; Children’s literature {Ref 809.89 Car}; English literature {Ref 820.3 Dra}; French literature {840.3 Dra} - Cover authors and novels; culture, style, subjects, and biographies. Also discusses literary movements and types of literature.

Shakespearean Criticism {Ref 822.33 Wil} and **Shakespeare for Students** {822.33 Sha} Just what they sound like!

Scribner Writers Series - Biographical information and overviews of specific ethnicities or genre~ African Writers {Ref 896 Afr}; Ancient Writers of Greece and Rome {880.09 Luc}; Science Fiction Writers {809.4 Sci}; Supernatural Fiction Writers (Fantasy and Horror) {Ref 809.3 Sup}.

Twayne Companion to Contemporary World Literature - {REF 809 Twa} – Short critical essays. Access by author's name in the index.

More Works to use for authors of particular cultures

Ancient Writers, European Writers, British Writers, American Writers, Latin American Writers- Large entries. Cover style, works, and different types of literature from different time periods.

More Works that deal with particular genre

Critical Survey of Mystery and Detective Fiction - {Ref 809.3 Cri} Authors selected fall into one of three groups: those known for their work in the genre (Agatha Christie, for example); those known for their contributions to the origin of the genre (Edgar Allan Poe); those better known for other genre, but admired for their work in this genre as well (William Faulkner).

Drama Criticism - {Ref 809.2} Introduces readers to the most frequently studied playwrights.

Poetry Criticism - {Ref 809.1} Critical excerpts and biographical information on the most frequently discussed and studied poets in high school and undergraduate college courses.

Poetry for Students - {Ref 808 Poe} Contains text of poem, bio of author, line-by-line summary, discussion of themes, commentary on style, historical context, and critical commentary. Several volumes. A product of Gale Publishing.

Science Fiction Authors (Supernatural Fiction Writers) {Ref 809.3 Sup}; **Science Fiction Writers** {Ref 809.4 Sci}), **Contemporary American Dramatists** - {Ref 809.273 Ber}, **Supernatural Literature of the World** {Ref 809 Sup}.

Short Story Criticism - {Ref 809.3} Literary commentary on short story writers of all eras and nationalities. Many volumes.

Short Stories for Students - {Ref 808.83 Sho} Provides information that helps readers understand and analyze short stories. Also provides information on the literary and historical background, and information about media adaptations and other works of fiction and non-fiction with similar themes and topics. Like the other books in the ...for Students books, indexed chronologically, so look for the highest book in the 13-volume series.

Online Resources

Link to these from the Media Center homepage (choose “**class assignments**”) and then find 12 AP Literature Criticism. (www.troycolts.org/mediacenter)

A great online resource is found in the EBSCO database. After clicking on EBSCO, choose *Literary Reference Center*. Here you will find the “Masterplots” series and Bloom books, book reviews, and reference sources for, among other literary elements, literary characters. User ID is **troyhs** and password is **library**.

Our e-books are located within the Gale database *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Current titles available include: Concise Major 21st Century Writers , Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of World Literature , Literary Newsmakers for Students , Literary Themes for Students: Race and Prejudice , Literary Themes for Students: The American Dream, Literary Themes for Students: War and Peace, Nonfiction Classics for Students, Novels for Students , and Poetry for Students.

~Username and Password are the same: **TROY83846** .

More e-books are available from *Infobase Publishing*. Username: **ths** Password: **books**. Currently we only have the following Harold Bloom titles available: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Heart of Darkness, Jose Saramago, Love in the Time of Cholera, One Hundred Years of Solitude and Thomas Pynchon.

Troy Public Library has a subscription to Gale’s *Literature Resource Center* and *NoveList Plus*, which you may connect with from any computer at Troy High or from your home, if you have Internet access and a library card (if you are at school you should not need a password). The *Literature Resource Center* database contains biographies, bibliographies, overviews, and critical analyses. Select eResources from the TPL web page and then look at the Literature and Reading link from the subject list (or connect directly from our Class Assignments page). There is also an excellent Research Guide available here to help you formulate a thesis, organize your paper, or create a works cited page. *NoveList Plus* will help you to find similar titles to one you have already enjoyed. A good way to find a title to compare to one you have already read.

My e-mail is tisaac2@troy.k12.mi.us if you need help!!!!