Literary Criticism

BOOKS:
Use the Library’s online catalog to locate books that have been written about the author or the literary work that you are researching. Do a keyword search using the author’s last name, the title of the work, and “crit*” (for example, type: Hansberry Raisin in the Sun crit*). This will limit the results to catalog records that include words such as, “criticism”, “critical”, “critique”. These books will include a critical analysis of the literary work.

REFERENCE BOOKS:
The following reference books are useful for overviews of literary works. The information is concise and often highlights specific aspects of literature such as plot, author’s style, character analysis, literary themes, historical context, as well as critical overviews.

**Novels**

- Novels for Students
  Ref PN 3385.N68
- Masterplots: 1,801 Plot Stories….
  Ref PN 44.M33 1996
- Critical Survey of Long Fiction
  Ref PN 3451.C75 2000

**Short Stories**

- Short Stories for Students
  Ref PN 3373.S56
- Masterplots II: Short Story Series
  Ref PN 3326.M27 2004
- Critical Survey of Short Fiction
  Ref PN 3321.C7 2001

**Poetry**

- Poetry for Students
  Ref PN 1101.P64
- Masterplots II: Poetry Series
  Ref PN 1110.5.M37 2002
- Critical Survey of Poetry
  Ref PN 1021.C7 2003

**Plays**

- Drama for Students
  Ref PN 1601.D595
- Shakespeare for Students
  Ref PR 2987.S47
- Masterplots II: Drama Series
  Ref PN 6112.5.M37 2004
- Critical Survey of Drama
  Ref PR 623.C75 1994

**Ethnic Writers**

- Asian American Novelists
  Ref PS 153.A84 A825 2000
- Dictionary of Native American Literature
  Ref PS 153.I52 D53 1994
- Latino and Latina Writers
  Ref PS 153.H56 L39 2004
- African American Literature
  Ref PS 153.N5 G73 2005
- Greenwood Ency. of Multiethnic American Lit.
  Ref PS 153.M56 G74 2005
DATABASES:

Literary criticism from books, journals, magazines and reference works is available in full-text from the following online databases. Save yourself some time; send articles to your e-mail account, and read them later. You can also access the databases from home, or any off-campus location through the Library Home Page. Click on “Find Articles”. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number to access the following databases.

**Literature Resource Center**

This database contains detailed information on works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama. The resources include scholarly articles, biographies, literary criticism, plot summaries, and reviews. Using the Advanced Search screen, type the name of a literary work, and combine it with the author’s name. You can also enter additional keywords, if you are focusing on a specific aspect of the work or an author’s style. For example, type characters in the Keyword box and Raisin in the Sun in the Name of Work box, and Hansberry in the Person-By or About box. The search results will be organized under headings, such as Literature Criticism; Biographies; Reviews, etc.

**Academic OneFile**

Critical essays, reviews, interviews, biographies, stories and poems can be found in magazine and academic journal articles in this database. Use the Advanced Search to find articles on a specific work, character or topic. For example, to search for information on culture in Raisin in the Sun, enter culture in the Keyword box, Hansberry in the second box and Raisin in the Sun in the third box.

**Academic Search Premier**

This database is similar to Academic OneFile. It is not necessary to “select a field” when you input your search terms. Articles can be e-mailed.

**E-book Collections** are linked to the Database Subject page. The library owns:

**Gale Virtual Reference Library** includes the following titles:

- Drama for Students (vols. 1 – 16)
- Novels for Students (vols. 1 – 16)
- Poetry for Students (vols. 1 -16)
- Shakespeare for Students (3 volume set)
- Short Stories for Students (vols. 1-16)

**Infobase e-Book Collection** includes biographies of authors, books with literary reviews and criticism, and books dealing with multicultural topics.

**Websites**

Unless you are an expert on your topic, it might be difficult to find a reliable site using Google. From the Library Home Page, select Web Evaluation and then, click the arrow to the right of Best Websites. Here you will find a variety of directories that access evaluated web sites.

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