



LIBRARY

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 Search Complete

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* **search** box, *Hansberry* in the second box and *Raisin in the Sun* in the third box. It is not necessary to "select a field" when you input your search terms. Articles can be e-mailed.

E-books are linked on the **Database By Subject** from the **Find Articles** link on the library homepage.

[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) includes the following titles and **Advanced Search** can be used to find information on a specific work, character, or topic:

- *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)

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.