

Gale Literary Criticism Series Guide

Gale Research, a reference publisher, has produced related multi-volume sets, which reprint important criticism (from both periodicals and books), on major writers. Each volume of a set contains several authors. Each entry in a volume includes the name and a brief biographical sketch of the author being discussed, followed by excerpts from several works critical of the author's writing. A complete citation follows every excerpt. This is the information to use for your bibliography or works cited list.

Authors of note are usually covered in more than one volume, so always check the highest number volume in a set for the most up-to-date author index. Title indexes, in paperback, are available to the largest sets. For smaller sets, the title index will be in the regular criticism volumes. Gale also offers an online [Literary Index](http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/) (www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex/) which identifies the series and volumes that cover a particular author or a particular work.

Titles in the Gale Literary Criticism Series

The Gale Series includes:

[Literature Criticism Online](#)

This database includes the complete sets of *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, *Poetry Criticism*, and *Short Story Criticism*. Sawyer Library also has print holdings of these series in the Reference stacks as follows:

[Contemporary Literary Criticism](#)

REF PN771 .C59 (V.1 - 252)

CLC is used for authors now living, or those who died after December 31, 1959. William Faulkner, Joyce Carol Oates, and Maya Angelou are a few examples of the authors in this set.

[Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism](#)

REF PN771 .G27 (V.1 - 210)

This series, referred to as **TCLC**, covers authors who died between 1900 and 1959. Some examples are F. Scott Fitzgerald, Virginia Woolf, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Poetry Criticism

REF PN1010 .P499

Referred to in indexes as **PC**, this set covers poets of any time period, but discusses only their poetic works. So, Sylvia Plath's poetry is covered in PC 1 (as well as several volumes of CLC), her novel, *The Bell Jar*, is covered only by CLC (check the CLC indexes to see which volumes of CLC cover her novel). PC was created only a few years ago; so many writers who wrote poetry exclusively may also appear in a different set, especially criticism of their earlier works. For example, the poet Marianne Moore is in PC 4, but also in CLC 1,2,4,8,10,13,19 and 47.

Short Story Criticism

REF PN3373 .S386

Referred to as **SSC**, this series covers only short stories. Some authors, for example, Bret Harte, are best known for short stories. But many authors, like William Faulkner, write both short stories and novels and are covered in SSC for short story analysis, and in many volumes of CLC for discussion of novels.

Contemporary Authors

Volumes 206 to the present are available in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) database. Published since 1962, this series presents bio-bibliographical information as well as a summary of criticism on "modern novelists, poets, playwrights, nonfiction writers, journalists and scriptwriters. Current writers, as well as the most-studied literary figures of the early 20th century, and authors from around the world are featured." Volumes 1-205 of [Contemporary Authors](#) are available in the Reference stacks (REF PN451 .E8).

Contemporary Authors. New Revision Series

Volumes 114 to the present are available in the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) database. This database consists of revisions and updates to the original author sketches published in [Contemporary Authors](#). Volumes 1-113 of [Contemporary Authors, New Revision Series](#) are available in the Reference stacks (REF PN451 .E8 NRS).

Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism

REF PN761 .N5

This series, referred to as **NCLC**, covers authors who died between 1800 and 1899. Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, and Fedor Dostoevsky are examples of these.

Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800

REF PN86 .L56

LC offers excerpts of criticisms of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, philosophers and other creative writers who died between 1400 and 1799. It includes both current criticism and appraisals by an author's contemporaries. Marie de LaFayette, Geoffrey Chaucer and Ts'ao Hsueh-chin are examples of authors covered by these volumes.

[Black Literature Criticism](#)

REF PS153 .N5 B556

Contains excerpts from criticism of the most significant works of Black authors over the past 200 years. It includes authors such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Richard Wright. **BLC** is not limited to Americans.

[Shakespearean Criticism](#)

REF PR2965 .S43

This series, **SC**, exclusively covers the works--poetic and dramatic--of William Shakespeare.

[Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism](#)

REF PN610 .C5

Referred to as **CMLC**, this series covers authors who date from antiquity to the 14th century. Examples include Plato and commentary on *Beowulf*.