

Research Guides



LITERARY CRITICISM

ADULT REFERENCE – 1ST FLOOR

Masterplots - R 808.8 Mas

American Fiction; Drama; Poetry; Short Stories; & Revised Series.

The Oxford companion to African American literature - R 810.9896 Oxf

Criticism and biographic information on major Black American writers.

American Writers - R 810.9 Ame

Biographical information and criticism of major American writers and poets.

British Writers - R 820.9 Bri

Biographical information and criticism of major British writers and poets.

ADULT NONFICTION – 3RD FLOOR

Maps and Legends: Reading and Writing Along the Borderlands – 801.95 Cha

A series of linked essays analyzes works of literature important to the author, argues for the importance of enjoying a diverse range of reading options, and explores the author's own writings from a perspective of personal history.

See What Can Be Done: Essays, Criticism, and Commentary – 801.95 Moo

A compilation for varying criticisms on authors such as Don DeLillo, Phillip Roth, Alice Munro, and many more.

How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read – 809 Bay

Argues that it doesn't really matter if you've read a book or not. (In fact, in certain situations, reading the book is the worst thing you could do.)

The Written World: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, Civilization – 809.9335 Puc

Tells stories of creative people whose lives and beliefs led them to create groundbreaking foundational texts, and how those texts affected the world they were born into.

Cassell's History of English Literature – 820.9 Con

Provides an encyclopedic survey, but also a personal, chronological interpretation of the English tradition with an emphasis on the continuity of major literary forms and on the ways in which important figures transform the art.

FINDING BOOKS AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS

Dewey Decimal browsing numbers: 801 - 860

In addition to reference books, you may want to search for other books and materials (videos, audiobooks, etc.) on your topic. You can access the Library catalog from the Library or from home by going to www.wtpl.org. A good subject search is **literature – history and criticism; criticism; Literature, Modern -- History and criticism; English literature -- History and criticism; Keats, John, 1795-1821 - Criticism and interpretation**, etc.

EBOOKS

Visit **EBSCOhost** (www.wtpl.org/research) or <https://wtpl.overdrive.com> to search the thousands of eBooks the Library has to offer. Library card required. Contact an Adult Services Librarian for additional details.

ARTICLES

The following sources can be used to find magazine articles dealing with your topic:

- **EBSCOhost and General OneFile** - Access from the Library or at home using your library card number at www.wtpl.org. Search for full-text articles in these online databases using your choice of keywords. You can limit the search to a certain year or even a certain magazine.

WEB SITES

Classic Notes: Detailed summaries, essays, character discussions, theme discussions and more for over 300 poems, novels and stories.

www.gradesaver.com

(See also Spark Notes: www.sparknotes.com for texts, notes, quizzes and study guides. A free registration required for some access.)

Critical Reading: A Guide: A guide to help students think critically about the literature they are reading. It also includes analyses of various literature types, and instructions on how to write an analytical essay.

writing.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=31

Library Spot's Literary Criticism: Library Spot's links to helpful author and litcrit sites.

www.libraryspot.com/litcrit.htm

The Guardian's Literary Criticism: Plenty of articles and links with a focus on criticism and literature.

www.theguardian.com/books/literary-criticism

For additional information, please see an Adult Services Librarian.