



## Finding Information about Poems and Poets in the JSCC Library

**I. Reference Materials:** (use the Literary Index database for an electronic index to Gale reference articles)

### **Criticism:**

Poetry for Students (Ref PN1101.P64)

- Author biographies, poem text & summary
- Literary themes, writing style, historical context, and criticism

Poetry Criticism (Ref PN1010.P499)

- Author and title indexes in back of latest volume will direct you to entries in other volumes

Critical Survey of Poetry (Ref PN1111.C7)

- Index in Volume 8

Poetry Explication (Ref Z2014.P7.K8 1980)

- Specific poems listed below author's name
- A list of full citations to books is in back (you would then have to check the library catalog to see if we have the book you need)
- A list of periodical abbreviations is in front

Guide to British Poetry Explication (Ref PR311.M34 1991)

- Specific poems listed below author's name
- A list of full citations to books is in back (you would then have to check the library catalog to see if we have the book you need)
- A list of periodical abbreviations is in front

Contemporary Literary Criticism (Ref PN771.C59)

- Cumulative indexes appear regularly, so use index from the most recent issue
- Covers authors now living, or who died after 1960

Library of Literary Criticism (Ref PR83.M73 1959)

- Look in the General Index to Authors in Volume VIII. It will direct you to the appropriate volume and page number. There you will find brief personal information, then excerpts of items written about them.

The Explicator Cyclopedica (Ref PR401.E9)

- Contains excerpts of criticisms on various authors
- Volume 1 covers Modern Poetry, and volume 2 covers Traditional Poetry

A Library of Literary Criticism: Modern British Literature (Ref PR473.T4)

- Brief criticisms of authors arranged alphabetically.
- Supplement may have additional criticisms on your author.

Black Literature Criticism (Ref PS153.N5 B556 1992 v.1-3)

## **Summaries and Explanations:**

Masterplots (Ref PN44.M33 1996)

- Discuss the plot, themes & meanings, style and technique of famous works of literature

Masterplots: Revised Second Edition (Ref PN44.M33 1996 v. 1-12)

Masterplots II: Poetry Series (Ref PN1110.5.M37 1992)

- Cover poems not included in the original Masterplots

Masterplots II: African American Literature Series (Ref PS153.N6.M2645 1994 V.1-3)

## **Biographical Information:**

American Writers (Ref PS129.A55)

British Writers (Ref PR19.B68 1997)

Contemporary Poets (Ref PS325.C66 1986)

American Women Writers (Ref PS147.A4)

Modern American Women Writers (Ref PS151.M54 1990)

American Poets, 1880-1945 (Ref PS324.A438)

American Poets Since World War II (Ref PS323.5.A5)

Afro-American Poets Since 1955 (Ref PS153.N5.A38 1985)

Afro-American Writers Before the Harlem Renaissance (Ref PS153.N5.A386 1986)

Afro-American Writers from the Harlem Renaissance to 1940 (Ref PS153.N5.A387 1987)

Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955 (Ref PS153.N5.A388 1988)

Contemporary Authors (Ref PN451.C66)

African American Writers (Ref PS153.N5.A344 1990)

World Authors (Ref PN451.W3) (Ref PN451.W67) (Ref PN451.W672)

Concise Encyclopedia of English and American Poets and Poetry (Ref PR19.S6)

World Poets (Ref PN1021.W67 2000 v. 1-3)

Dictionary of Literary Biography (African American Writers) (Ref PS153.N5.A3)

Dictionary of Literary Biography (American Writers) (Ref PS324.A439)

The Bloomsbury Guide to Women's Literature (Ref PN471.B57 1992)

Great Women Writers (Ref PN471.G74 1994)

## **General Biographical Sources:** (not limited to literary figures)

Dictionary of American Biography (Ref E176.D563)

Dictionary of National Biography (Ref DA28.D47) (to find information about a British person)

Current Biography (Ref CT100.C8) (from 1940-present)

Encyclopedia of World Biography (Ref CT103.M27)

## **II. Books:**

### **JSCC Online Library Catalog:**

If you are looking for information ABOUT a poem, rather than the text of the poem itself, search for the author as a *subject*. Enter the author's name in the following manner: *Browning Robert*

From the list of subheadings, you should find books specifically giving biographical or critical information. If this does not yield any results, try using a *keyword* search, using the author's name and title words.

### **NetLibrary:**

A fully-searchable collection of full-text books right on your computer. Set up an individual password from an on-campus computer for access from home.

### III Computer Indexes/Databases:

These databases are available on computers in the Data Center. From the library home page <<http://library.jscc.edu>> click **Databases**, choose the category indicated, then select the database you wish to search. Please ask us for the usernames and/or passwords that you will need to access several of these from home.

#### Literature category:

- **Contemporary Literary Criticism** - An extensive collection of critical essays on contemporary authors.
- **Literary Index** - Index to reference books (like Contemporary Authors, Contemporary Literary Criticism, or the Dictionary of Literary Biography) you can find the information in. Use the Online Catalog to see which reference books we have in the library.
- **Literature Resource Center**- Provides biographies, bibliographies and critical analysis of authors from every age and literary discipline, combining Gale's most used literary databases to cover more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers.
- **Magill on Literature** - The information in this database equals the complete contents of 31 sets of reference books, including nearly 20 *Masterplots* and *Masterplots II* titles, the *Cyclopedia of World Authors*, the *Cyclopedia of Literacy Characters*, as well as 10 years of *Magill's Literary Annuals* and *Magill Book Reviews*.

#### Encyclopedias & Reference category:

- **Oxford Reference** - Oxford Reference Online brings together language and subject reference works from one of the world's biggest reference publishers into a single cross-searchable resource.  
Humanities Full Text

#### Humanities & Social Science category:

- **Humanities Full Text** - brings you full text plus abstracts and bibliographic indexing of the most noted scholarly sources in the humanities, as well as numerous lesser-known but important specialized magazines.

**Need Help?** Ask at the *Reference Desk*, call (731) 424-3520 ext. 572