



Finding Information About Short Stories and Authors

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

Criticism and Summary:

Short Stories for Students (Ref PN3373.S56)

- Author biographies
- Plot summaries, character descriptions, literary themes, writing styles, and historical context
- Critical overview, and individual criticisms

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.

Masterplots (Ref PN44.M33 1996)

- Discusses the plot, themes and meanings, style and technique of famous works of literature, including a number of short stories

Masterplots II: Short Story Series (Ref PN3326.M27 1986)

- Covers short stories not covered in the original Masterplots

Note: The contents of the entire MasterPlots series is also available online using the MagillOnLiterature database. See page three of this handout for more information.

Short Story Criticism (Ref PN3373.S5)

- Use the cumulative index to look for criticism on your story

Magill's Bibliography of Literary Criticism (Ref Z6511.M25)

- Title index can be found in the back.

Twentieth Century Short Story Explication (Ref PN3373.W33 1977)

- Look in the "Index to the Third Edition and its Five Supplements" under the author's name. Below the author's name, look for the story of interest. This will direct you to a page in either the Third Edition book, or one of the supplements. At that entry, you will see partial citations to criticisms. Look in the "Checklist of Books Used" or "Checklist of Journals Used" for the full citation. Then check the JSCC Library Catalog, or the JSCC Periodicals Listing to see if we have the book or journal needed.

Critical Survey of Short Fiction (Ref PN3321.C7)

- Volume 7 has an author and title index in back.

A Reader's Guide to the Short Stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne (Ref PS1888.N4 1979)

- Discusses all his major short stories

Black Literature Criticism (Ref PS153.N5.B556 1992)

- Author and Title index are in Volume 3

The 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 things written about them.

Library of Literary Criticism (Ref PS221.C8 1964)

- Contains excerpts of criticisms
- Authors are in alphabetical order.

Black American Writers: Bibliographical Essays (Ref PS508.N5.B5)

- 2 volume set which covers a long period of time.

Biographical Information:

Afro-American Fiction Writers (Ref PS153.N5.A34 1984)
Afro-American Writers, 1940-1955 (Ref PS153.N5.A388 1988)
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)
American Short-Story Writers, 1880-1910 (Ref PS374.S5.A39 1988)
American Short-Story Writers, 1910-1945 (Ref PS374.S5.A396 1989)
American Short-Story Writers Before 1880 (Ref PS374.S5.A38 1988)
American Women Writers (Ref PS147.A4)
American Writers (Ref PS129.A55)
American Writers in Paris, 1920-1939 (Ref PS129.A57 1980)
British Writers (Ref PR19.B68 1997)
Contemporary Authors (Ref PN451.C66)
Current Biography (Ref CT100.C8)
Cyclopedia of World Authors II (Ref PN451.C93 1989)
Dictionary of American Biography (Ref E176.D563)
Dictionary of National Biography (Ref DA28.D47)
Fifteen American Authors Before 1900 (Ref PS201.R38)
Latin American Writers (Ref PQ7081.A1.L37 1989)
Modern American Women Writers (Ref PS151.M54 1990)
Science Fiction Writers (Ref PS374.S35.S36 1982)
Sixteen Modern American Writers (Ref PS221.F45 1974)
Spanish American Authors: The Twentieth Century (Ref PQ7081.3.F57 1992)
Twentieth-Century American Science Fiction Writers (Ref PS374.S35.T88 1981)
World Authors (Ref PN451.W3) (Ref PN451.W67) (Ref PN451.W672)

II. Books:

JSCC Online Library Catalog:

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

jackson shirley

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.jsc.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.

Other Sources of Information:

Bibliography of Articles in the JSCC Library about Short Stories

- Available on reserve at the circulation desk.
- Available on the Web at <<http://library.jsc.edu/researchhelp/biblio-periodical-articles.php>>.
- This bibliography will point you to periodical articles about specific stories.
- The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by the title of the story.
- At the end of each entry is a note indicating whether the article is located on the Periodical Shelves, microfiche, microfilm, or storage.

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