

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENG 1302 COMPOSITION II



FINDING LITERARY CRITICISM FOR THE A-LEVEL PAPER

If you are doing the A-Level Paper that requires using and documenting literary criticism of a short story, the following resources should help you.

Be sure you know the complete title of the story and author's name. It also can help if you know when it was originally published. This will help when you use the resources listed below.

REFERENCE SOURCES (Books and Online)

Short Story Criticism

REF PN 3321 .S5 (Complete sets at NRG, RGC, RVS. Recent volumes at CYP, EVC, PIN)

Excellent collection of over 30 volumes of criticism that was first published elsewhere. You can get several different critics' views on a story gathered together. Use index at the end of the set to look up the title of your story. It will give you the volume and page number. Stories are often mentioned in more than one volume.

Short Stories for Students

REF PN 3373 .S3485

Multivolume set. Each story is covered in depth, usually over 15 pages. Includes criticism by at least three experts. Also has author biography, comments on style, plot summary, and more. Start with author/title index in last volume.

Critical Survey of Short Fiction

REF PN 3321 .C7 (NRG, RGC, RVS, SAC)

Multivolume set with three-to-four pages each on several hundred authors. Start with the index in the final volume to find the specific story you are working on. Even if your story isn't covered, the general criticism of the author can be useful.

Masterplots II: Short Story Series

REF PN 3326 .M27 (All campuses)

Short summaries and critiques of stories. Each story covered has sections called "Themes and Meanings" and "Style and Technique" that provide criticism. Arranged alphabetically by the name of the story.

THE RESOURCES IN THIS COLUMN ARE ONLINE DATABASES. To access, go to the Library homepage (library.austincc.edu), click on "Find Articles & Research Information," then click on "Humanities & Literature." (If you're off campus, you will be asked to input your last name and ACC I.D. number.)

Gale Literary Databases



**Contemporary Literary Criticism
Dictionary of Literary Biography
Contemporary Authors**

Three literary databases that can be searched simultaneously or separately. Criticism of short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Biographical information on authors.

Literature Resource Center



Criticism and biographical information. Be careful that you're in the criticism area; it can be a bit confusing. Look for the tab in the results.

Magill on Literature



Plot summaries, brief criticism, literary history.

Scibner Writers Series



In-depth critical biographies of writers from ancient to current.

Twayne's Author Series





Book-length critical analyses of authors from ancient to recent. Individual titles can be searched. Also covers major literary movements and concepts.

BOOKS & JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Entire books of literary criticism may seem like overkill for this project, but many of them are collections of shorter writings, which can be perfect. From the library homepage, click on "Find Books, Course Reserves, Videos." Change the search method from "Quick Keyword" to "General Subject" to search for your author's last name. When you find the books on the shelves, look in the tables of contents or indexes for the specific story you are researching. Even if you don't find it, the general criticism of the author can be useful.

NOTE: If you see entries in the catalog that look like the second one below with the E icon, it is an **online book**. Click on the link. You will go to the catalog entry for it. Click on the link there to see it. This can be done from off campus. Your last name and ACC I.D. number will give you access.

10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Herman Melville / Elizabeth Hardwick. : Herman Melville / Elizabeth Hardwick.	 2000
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Melville's anatomies [electronic resource] / Samuel Otter. : Melville's anatomies [electronic resource] / Samuel Otter.	 c1999

- Literary journals publish articles of criticism. To search for these, visit the library web site (library.austincc.edu) and click on "Find Articles and Research Information." Go the "General & Reference" section, click on "Academic Search Premier." Search for your specific story. (If you need more help accessing the online sources listed here, see instructions below.)

MORE SOURCES & MORE HELP

World Wide Web Sites – The public part of the Web isn't very useful for finding literary criticism in most cases. The sources listed above are almost always better. However there is some good stuff out there. Go to the English Resources on the World Wide Web (library.austincc.edu/w3/ENG/). This lists recommend web sites.

Didn't find anything on your story?

This is a guide to sources that are most likely to be useful. There are many additional places that can help. Ask the reference librarian if you want more sources or anytime you have problems using any of the ones described here. If you're not on campus, you can e-mail questions (library@austincc.edu), do a live chat (see library homepage), or call: CYP 223-2030, EVC 223-5116, NRG 223-4744, PIN 223-8130, RGC 23-3068, RVS 223-6005, SAC 223-9181.

Also, sometimes you can't find information on your specific story. You may have to use the overall criticism on your author and apply it to the story you are working on.

Remember: The library provides a free handout on MLA documentation. It is also available on the web at library.austincc.edu/help/MLA/