



The Norton Introduction to Literature

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A balanced selection of classic and contemporary works by prominent and less-well-known writers. From Joyce, Hemingway, O'Connor, Auden, Stevens, Dickinson, Faulkner, Hawthorne, and Whitman, to Sharon Olds, Nicholson Baker, Carolyn Forché, Paul Ruffin, Salman Rushdie, Agha Shahid Ali, Eamon Grennan, Linda Pastan, Li-Young Lee, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Simon Ortiz, Seamus Heaney, Karen Volkman, and David Ives.

"Exploring Contexts" chapters provide a window into the broader literary world by placing the stories, poems, and plays in contextual groups, literary, authorial, cultural, historical, and social, illuminating connections among texts and the influences that shape them.

"Critical Context" Casebooks, a new feature, serve as capstone chapters for each genre. Each includes one primary literary work followed by several professional critical responses, allowing students to explore one work in depth and to develop and expand their reading and analytical skills as they prepare to write about what they've read. Two student papers, one, a personal response essay, and the other, a research paper, round out the fiction casebook.

Reading, Responding, Writing chapters introduce students to a genre and ways of exploring and writing about it.

Understanding the Text chapters within each genre cover the elements of literature, providing students with the tools they need to consider various works.

Evaluating chapters strengthen students' critical skills by guiding them in the difficult task of evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of literary works.

A Reading More section offers an album of pieces for further reading.

New Fiction Chapter:

"Cultural and Historical Context"

This new chapter focuses on F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Babylon Revisited" and discusses the historical events and cultural climate that provided the backdrop for Fitzgerald's fiction. No other anthology offers so deep a contextual analysis.

New Drama Chapter:

"The Author's Work as Context: William Shakespeare"

Pushing students beyond their natural curiosity about Shakespeare's life, this new chapter calls attention to stylistic and thematic currents running through Shakespeare's work and encourages students to read Shakespeare actively and critically.

Evaluation Chapters Revised

"Evaluating" (fiction, poetry, drama) chapters have been reconceived to guide students toward determining and declaring the basis on which they are making their evaluative judgments.

New Introduction: "What is Literature?"

Alison Booth's insightful introduction discusses questions concerning the nature of "literature," the value of reading and writing about it, and the history of "the canon."

New Selections

Fourteen new stories, seventy-six new poems, and four new plays offer an unbeatable selection of both classic and contemporary works. Among the new selections are pieces by Carol Shields, Jhumpa Lahiri, Stephen Crane, Billy Collins, Lorrie Moore, James Joyce, Eavan Boland, Thom Gunn, Andrew Hudgins, Jorie Graham, Gail Mazur, August Wilson, Lillian Hellman, Paula Vogel.

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