



Poetry Criticism

Finding Critical Information in Books:

The library may have books ABOUT a specific poet's life and his/her writings. Use the library catalog to locate these books. Do a **subject search** using the poet's name by entering last name first (for example: Hughes, Langston). General books about a poet can also be useful in discussing the poet's style or use of certain literary themes. Use the index in general books to find comments about a particular poem. To find poems BY a particular poet, do an **author search** rather than a subject search in the library catalog. Remember, that books are available from other libraries through LINK+.

Reference Sources for Critical Analysis and Biographical Information:

Poetry Criticism (PC) vols. 1-61

Ref PN1035.P635

This set contains excerpts of criticisms of poetry and includes biographical material on the poets. Poets from prior centuries are included as well as modern poets. Cumulative author and nationality indexes are found in each volume. A separate cumulative index to poem titles included in volumes 1-61 is available as a paperback supplement entitled, *Poetry Criticism Annual Cumulative Title Index*.

Poetry for Students (Pfs)

Ref PN1101.P756

This set provides a guide to understanding commonly studied poetry. Each entry includes an introduction to the poem and the poet; a poem summary; and analysis of important themes and literary techniques used in the poem. A cumulative Author/Title Index, cumulative Nationality/Ethnicity Index, and a volume specific Subject/Theme Index is provided at the end of each volume. Beginning with vol.10 there is a cumulative index of First lines and a cumulative index of Last lines.

Critical Survey of Poetry: English Language Series - Authors

Ref PN1111.C7

Articles on each poet discussed in this set are divided into several sections including the poet's biography and an analysis of the poet's works. There is also a *Critical Survey of Poetry: Foreign Language Series* (Ref PN41.C7 1984).

Masterplots II: Poetry Series

Ref PN1110.5.M37 1992

A multi-volume set arranged alphabetically by poem title. This set examines individual poems ranging from seventh century Chinese verse to twentieth century poems from around the world. The majority are English language poems. The set provides an overview of each poem. It also provides a brief discussion of the themes and meaning of each work.

Poetry Explication

Ref PR502.K8 1980

This book provides references to criticisms of specific poems found in books and journals. The book is arranged alphabetically by poet's last name and then each poem is listed alphabetically by title. There is also a *Guide to American Poetry Explication, Modern and Contemporary* (Ref PS221.L46), as well as, *Colonial and Nineteenth Century* (Ref PS 201.R66).

Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)

Ref PN771.C59 v.1+

This set contains lengthy excerpts from criticism of the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and scriptwriters living from 1960 to the present. Use the cumulative index in the latest volume to find all references to an author in this set and related sets. Use the paperbound *CLC Cumulative Title Index* to find criticisms of specific titles. **Note:** Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**.

Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)

Ref PN771.T9 v.1+

This set is related to CLC, but includes published criticism on authors who died between 1900 and 1960. Use the paperbound *TCLC Annual Cumulative Title Index* to find criticisms for specific titles.

Contemporary Authors (CA)

Contemporary Authors: New Revision (CANR)

Ref Z1224

This set is chiefly used to obtain biographical information on authors. The paperbound *Contemporary Authors Cumulative Index* is very important because it leads to excellent articles in other series by this publisher, such as *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (DLB), *Black Writers* (BW) and *Hispanic Writers* (HW). ***Note:** Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**.

Dictionary of Literary Biography

These volumes are primarily in the PR and PS section of the Reference collection. Each volume features biographical essays on writers representing a particular topic, genre or nationality. **Note:** Selected articles also available on-line. See **Galenet**.

Contemporary Poets

Ref PR603 .C6 2001

This volume is arranged alphabetically by poet. Each entry includes brief biographical information and a list of publications and criticism.

Full Text Electronic Resources and Internet Sites:

Galenet

This is an electronic version of *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism* and *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. It also includes *Scribner's Writers Series* that contains 1600 full text articles on authors and literary genres. You can search all three databases or choose one of the databases by clicking on the appropriate tab. Enter the poet's name in natural order or last name first.

Proquest Direct

1986+

This web-based index to magazines, journals and newspapers can be used to find reviews, critical analysis and biographical information. Do a **Basic Search** using an author's name and/or key words from a specific title or topic to find articles. To find reviews of a particular work, click on the **More Search Options** link, enter the title of your work in the search box and then select "**Review**" from the **Document Type** list.

Wilson Biographies

Contains 400,000 full text biographies including many authors through the ages.

Internet Public Library

<http://www.ipl.org/div/literit>

This web site indexes critical and biographical web sites about authors and their works. You can browse by author, title or by nationality and literary period.

****SEARCH FROM HOME OR YOUR WIRELESS LAPTOP:** You can search the West Valley College Library's **Full Text Electronic databases** from home or your wireless laptop if you are a currently enrolled student. Go to <http://wvclibrary.info> and click on the "Easy Access" page icon and go to "**Find Articles.**" Click the **off-campus** link for the database you want to search. You will need your name and student ID number to log in to the databases.