



What is Literary Criticism?

Literary criticism is an **analysis** of a literary work. This is different from an overview, which describes aspects of a work (such as plot, characters, and theme) instead of analyzing the item. Literary criticism might include the following:

- A **defense** of the work
- An analysis of its **structure** or **style**
- An interpretation of its **meaning**
- A prediction of its **effects on readers**
- And more

Where can you find literary criticism?

- **Books:** for broad coverage of a subject at a moderate to deep level. You will use chapters or just pages, not the whole book.
- **Periodicals/Scholarly Journals:** for articles on specific themes, characters, or events written by experts in academic or professional fields.

LibGuides

For more information, check out the library's online guide devoted to English Literature and literary criticism:

<http://libguides.blinn.edu/literature2>

For help with MLA or APA citation formatting, check out the following libguide:

<http://libguides.blinn.edu/citingsources>

Contact the Library

If you need additional help, please stop by the **Research Assistance Desk** in the library or use one of the features below.

Brenham: 979-830-4451

Bryan: 979-209-7273

Schulenburg: 979-743-5526

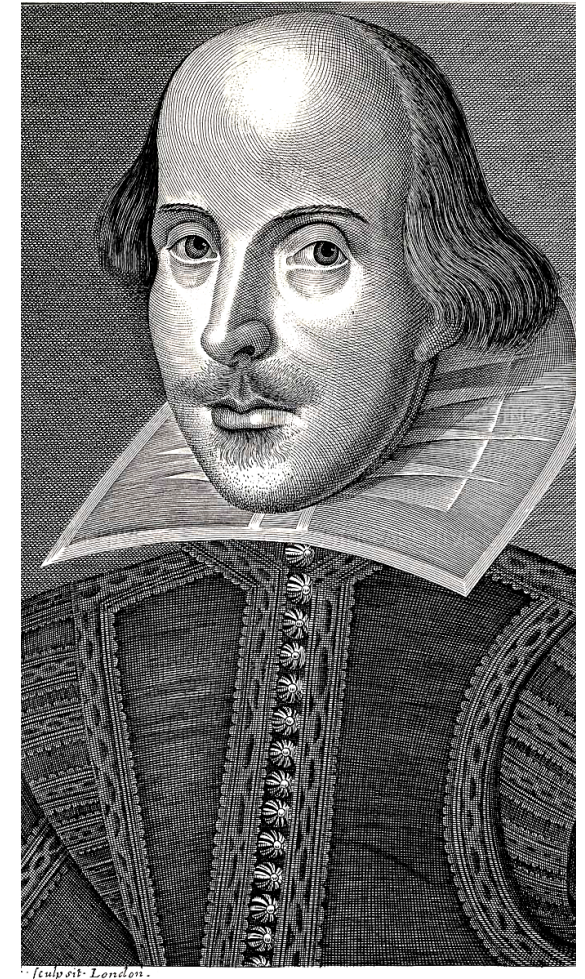
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Text: 979-457-4051

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Chat: <http://www.blinn.edu/library/chat/>

Website: www.blinn.edu/library/ or scan the QR code for direct access:



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SEARCHING FOR LITERARY CRITICISM

English Literature
Research Guide

Reference Books

Reference books are mainly literature encyclopedias and subject-specific dictionaries that provide general background knowledge of a topic. Books within the following number ranges in the Reference section of the library can include a wide variety of useful information, such as:

- plot summaries
- character analysis
- biographies
- criticisms

R 800 to R 809 General Literature & Rhetoric

R 810 to R 819 American Literature

R 820 to R 829 British Literature

R 830 to R 879 European Literature

R 880 to R 889 Classical Literature

Note

Books in the library's Reference section are intended for in-library use only. They cannot be checked out or taken out of the library building.

Library Catalog

The library catalog provides citation, location, and circulation information for all the books, ebooks, and audiovisual materials owned by the library.

To access the catalog:

- go to the library website (www.blinn.edu/library)
- click **Search the Catalog** under the **Books, DVD'S, and More** section
- in the **Keyword** search box, type the title **OR** author of the work you are researching and click **Search**
- under the **Refine Your Search** column on the left side of the page, look for **Subject** and then click **Criticism and Interpretation**
- Use the call number included in the catalog description to find a book that is located in your home campus library

Note

Your search results might also include links to full-text electronic books. Click on the web link in the book record to access ebooks. When accessing ebooks from off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your MyBlinn username and password.

Articles & Databases

The library databases listed below provide citations, and often, full-text articles from literary journals and books. To access the databases that focus on literature:

- go to the library website (www.blinn.edu/library)
- click **Databases by Subject** under the **Articles & Databases** section
- Click on the **Literature & Literary Criticism** section
- Click on the **blue** title of any of the literature databases to begin your search

Helpful Literature Databases

MLA International Bibliography

Humanities Full Text

Literary Reference Center

Literature Resource Center

Note

When accessing one of the library's databases from off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your MyBlinn username and password.

