

Preface for Instructors

Over the past thirty years, *The Norton Introduction to Literature* has helped students learn to read and enjoy literature. This Shorter Ninth Edition—our most extensive revision to date—offers in a single volume a complete course in reading and writing about literature. We have thoroughly reshaped it as a teaching anthology focused on the actual tasks, challenges, and questions typically faced by college students and instructors. It offers practical advice to help students transform their first impressions of literary works into fruitful discussions and meaningful critical essays, and it helps students and instructors together tackle the more complex questions at the heart of literary study. We have revised *The Norton Introduction to Literature* with an eye to providing a book that is as flexible and useful as possible—serving many different teaching styles and individual preferences—and that also conveys the excitement at the heart of literature itself.

Features of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*

The Norton Introduction to Literature has been a classroom favorite for over thirty years, and although this Shorter Ninth Edition contains much that is new or refashioned, the essential features of the text have remained consistent over many editions:

Diverse selections with broad appeal

As in the classroom, the readings remain at the heart of all we do, so we have given high priority to selecting a rich array of representative literary works. Among the 50 stories, 323 poems, and 12 plays in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, readers will find selections by well-established and emerging voices alike, representing a wide variety of times, places, cultural perspectives, and styles. The readings are excitingly diverse in terms of subject and style as well as authorship and national origin. In selecting and presenting literary texts, our top priority continues to be quality and pedagogical relevance and usefulness. To enhance the latter, and to avoid any form of literary segregation, we have integrated the new with the old and the experimental with the canonical. In this way, we aim to help students and teachers alike approach the unfamiliar by way of the familiar (and vice versa).

Helpful and unobtrusive editorial matter

As always, the editorial material before and after the selections avoids dictating any interpretation or response, but instead highlights essential terms and concepts while providing students with a way into the literature that follows. Questions and writing suggestions—all of which are new or substantially rewritten in the

Shorter Ninth Edition—help readers apply general concepts to specific readings in order to develop, articulate, and debate their own responses. We have annotated the works, as in all Norton anthologies, with a light hand, seeking to be informative but not interpretive.

An introduction to the study of literature

To introduce students to fiction, poetry, and drama is to open up a complex field of study with a long history. The expanded Introduction addresses many of the questions students may have about this field, concerning not only the nature of literature but also the practice of criticism. By exploring answers to the question “What do we do with literature?” we clear away some of the mystery about matters of method and approach, and we provide motivated students with a sense of the issues and opportunities that lie ahead if they continue their study of literature. A thoroughly revamped “Critical Approaches” chapter provides an overview of contemporary critical theory and its terminology and is useful as an introduction, a refresher, or a preparation for further study.

Helpful guidance for writing about literature

A new “Writing about Literature” section offers detailed and comprehensive guidance on how to write an essay about literature. As in the book’s other sections, the first steps are easy, outlining an essay’s basic formal elements—thesis, structure, and so on. Following these steps encourages students to approach the essay both as a distinctive genre with its own specifications and as an accessible form of writing with a clear purpose. From here, we walk students step-by-step through the writing process—how to choose a topic, gather evidence, and develop an argument; we detail the methods of writing a research essay; and we explain the mechanics of effective quotation and responsible citation and documentation. Finally, we include a new sample research paper—annotated by the editors to call attention to important features of good student writing.

A comprehensive approach to the contexts of literature

The Shorter Ninth Edition not only offers expanded resources for interpreting and writing about literature, but also extends the perspectives from which students can view particular authors and works. One of the great strengths of *The Norton Introduction to Literature* has been its exploration of the relation between literary texts and a variety of contexts. For several editions, “Author’s Work” and “Critical Contexts” chapters have served as mini-casebooks containing all the materials necessary for exciting context-focused reading and writing assignments. In the Shorter Ninth Edition, we add an illuminating chapter on the cultural and historical contexts surrounding the poetry of the Harlem Renaissance.

A sensible and teachable organization

We have chosen to preserve the traditional format of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, which has worked well for teachers and students for many editions. Each

genre is approached in three logical steps. Fiction, for example, is introduced by *Fiction: Reading, Responding, Writing*, which treats the purpose and nature of fiction, the reading experience, and the steps one takes to begin writing about fiction. This is followed by the seven-chapter section called *Understanding the Text*, which concentrates one-by-one on each of the genre's key elements. Next, "The Whole Text" chapter reviews the analytical aids presented in the previous chapters and suggests how to use them to form an interpretation. The third section, *Exploring Contexts*, suggests ways to embrace a work of literature by considering various literary, temporal, and cultural contexts. *Reading More*, the final component in the Fiction section, as in Poetry and Drama, is a reservoir of additional readings for independent study or a different approach.

The book's arrangement allows movement from narrower to broader frameworks, from simpler to more complex questions and issues, mirroring the way people read—wanting to learn more as they experience more. At the same time, no chapter or section depends on any other, so that individual teachers can pick and choose which chapters or sections to tackle and in what order.

New to the Shorter Ninth Edition

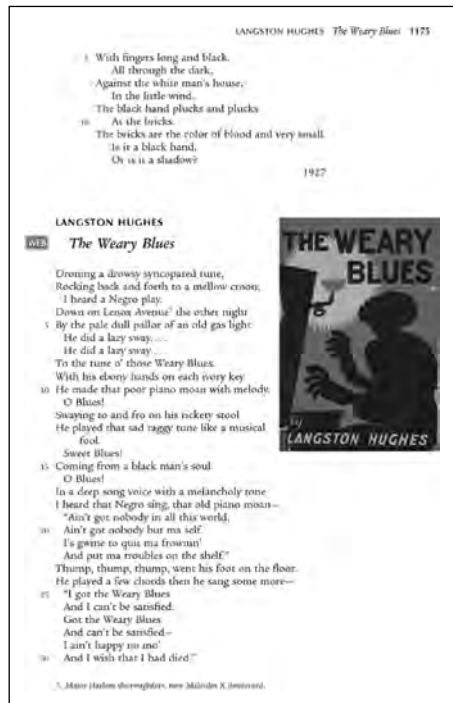
Fifty-four new selections

Of the 50 stories, 323 poems, and 12 plays in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, 11 stories, 42 poems, and 1 play are new to this edition. You will find new selections from established and respected writers such as Margaret Atwood, A. S. Byatt, Countee Cullen, Seamus Heaney, Claude McKay, Christina Rossetti, Tom Stoppard, Edith Wharton, and Oscar Wilde and from emerging writers such as Sherman Alexie, Andrea Barrett, Michael Chabon, Edwidge Danticat, Andrew Hudgins, and Pat Mora.

New contextual chapter

Building on the success and popularity of such chapters in the full-length Ninth Edition, the Shorter Ninth Edition includes a new contextual chapter devoted to culture and history.

The Harlem Renaissance: In the Poetry section, a chapter on the Harlem Renaissance provides not only a compact and teachable selection of some of the best-known poems from this exciting American literary movement,





but also prose pieces by Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke, Rudolph Fisher, and Zora Neale Hurston and visual materials to spark student interest and understanding.

Completely Revised Pedagogy

- The chapter introductions in the Shorter Ninth Edition of *The Norton Introduction to Literature* have been revised to more clearly introduce major terms and concepts. They're shorter, clearer, and more helpful in this edition.
- In the *Reading, Responding, Writing* and the *Understanding the Text* sections of the book, a question or set of questions follows each piece. All of these questions are new to the Ninth Edition.
- The *Introduction, Writing about Literature*, and *Critical Approaches* sections have all been rewritten for the Ninth Edition. The latter two are now more useful for quick reference than they were in past editions.



- To encourage students to use the media that accompanies *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, the Shorter Ninth Edition places icons next to the titles of literary works that are featured on the two-CD Audio Companion  or on *LitWeb*, the online companion to the anthology .
- Biographical information about the authors whose work is included in the anthology is now gathered at the end of each genre section, and almost all biographical sketches are accompanied by a portrait of the author.

Accompanying Media

Free Audio Companion

Because almost all reading experiences can be enhanced by an accompanying listening experience, every new copy of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, Shorter Edition, comes with two audio CDs that present readings of 28 poems, 4 short stories, and selections from 3 plays. Highlights include Garrison Keillor reading poems by Christopher Marlowe and Emily Dickinson, Lynn Redgrave and Michael Redgrave in a scene from *Pygmalion*, Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, as well as many authors reading their own works. A complete listing of the tracks on these audio CDs can be found inside the front cover.

LITWEB (www.norton.com/litweb)

This online companion to *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, Shorter Edition, encourages students to think through their responses to literature in three stages: articulating a personal response, rereading creatively and analytically, and researching contextual and scholarly resources on the Web in order to enrich their own interpretive work. LitWeb's features include:

- **In-Depth Literary Workshops.** Featuring 50 works from the text, these workshops guide students through the reading, rereading, and contextual exploration of a work. Author biographies and a set of related links are included.
- **Online Glossary and Glossary Flashcards.** These flashcards allow students to test and reinforce their knowledge of over 200 literary terms.
- **Writing about Literature.** This substantial section from *The Norton Introduction to Literature* is included online in its entirety.
- **Self-Grading Multiple-Choice Quizzes** on the elements of literature.
- **Access to Norton Poets Online** (nortonpoets.com), which features interviews with over 60 contemporary poets, dozens of audio recordings of poets reading their work, essays, online poetry workshops, and an e-mail newsletter.

Norton Literature Online

In addition to the book-specific resources available in *LitWeb*, every new copy of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, Shorter Edition, provides students with *free* access to *Norton Literature Online* (www.norton.com/literature), the gateway to all Norton's outstanding online literature resources. You can find more information about *Norton Literature Online* inside the back cover of this book.

Instructor's Resources

Instructor's Manual

Revised by Barbara Bird and Linda Yakle, both of St. Petersburg College, this thorough guide offers in-depth discussions of nearly all the works in the anthology as well as teaching suggestions and tips for the writing intensive literature course.

Teaching Poetry: A Handbook of Exercises for Large and Small Classes (Allan J. Gedalof, University of Western Ontario)

This practical handbook offers a wide variety of innovative in-class exercises to enliven classroom discussion of poetry. Each of these flexible teaching exercises includes straightforward, step-by-step guidelines and suggestions for variation.

Norton Resource Library (www.norton.com/nrl)

The Norton Resource Library offers teachers an online source of instructional content for use in conventional classrooms, course management systems, or distance education environments.

To obtain any of these instructional resources, please contact your local Norton representative.

In all our work on this edition, we have been guided by teachers in other English departments and in our own, by students who used the textbook and wrote to us with comments and suggestions, and by students in our own classes. We hope that with such capable help we have been able to offer you a solid and stimulating introduction to the experience of literature.

Acknowledgments

Our collaboration on this book continually reminds us of why we follow the vocation of teaching literature, which after all is a communal rather than solitary calling. Our own teachers and students as well as our colleagues have shown us how to join private responses to literature with shared learning and interpretation, both in discussion and in writing. We are grateful for the chance to refresh our appreciation of literature with the new as well as the longstanding selections in this book.

We have many people to thank as this edition reaches publication. Of our colleagues and students, we would like to offer special thanks to Gordon Braden and Victor Luftig for opportunities to teach high school English teachers; to Cindy Wall for being an inspirational colleague who also teaches from this text; to Megan Becker-Leckrone, Joseph Clark, Lotta Lofgren, Chip Tucker, Karen Chase, and John O'Brien for help with sources, both literary and pedagogical; to Ellen Malenas, Jill Rappaport, and Chloe Wigston Smith for their expertise as a teaching team in "Introduction to the Major"; and to Richard Gibson for allowing us to reprint his research essay.

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