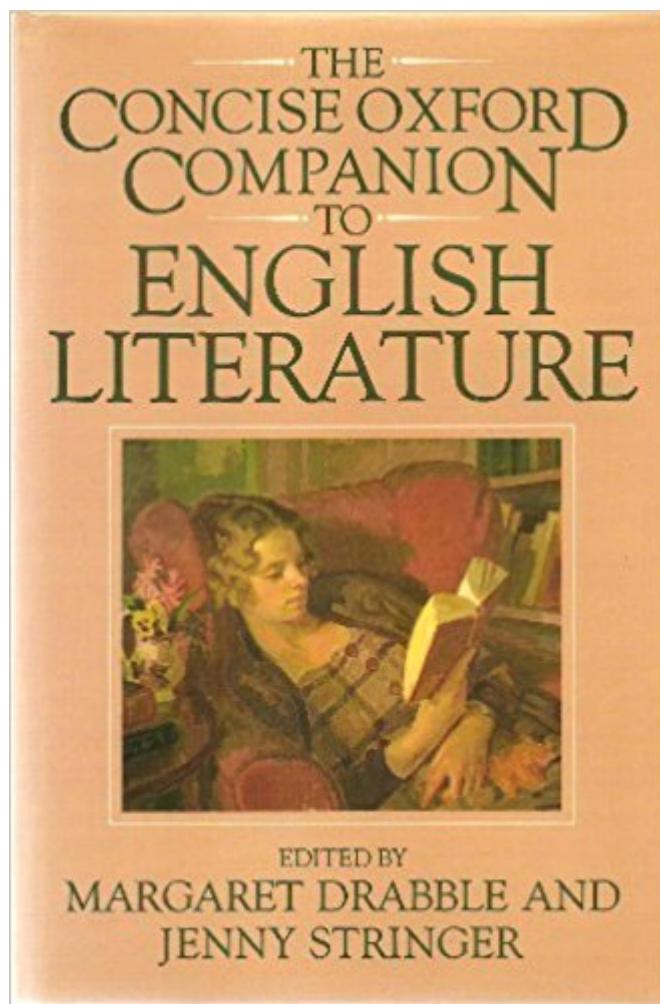


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The Concise Oxford Companion To English Literature



Synopsis

Based on the hugely popular Fifth Edition of The Oxford Companion to English Literature, edited by Margaret Drabble and published in 1985, this new volume offers more than 5,000 alphabetically arranged entries on individual novels and plays; songs and poems; the lives and works of authors, poets, playwrights, essayists, philosophers, and historians; fictional characters; literary movements; legends; theatres; and periodicals. _____ This abridgement has sharpened the focus on the English-language literature of the British Isles, but there is still generous coverage of the literature of other countries (including, of course, the United States) and of the works of art, music, science, and other disciplines that have influenced or been influenced by literature. In adapting the parent volume, the editors have eliminated the most peripheral entries and have condensed many of the remaining articles (while retaining the clear and graceful style that characterized the original). At the same time, they have updated information in the entries on modern authors and works and have added several entirely new essays on a number of topics such as Parody, Anachronism, Autobiography, Heroic Drama, and Foreign Influences on English Literature. The result is a book that students and general readers will find indispensable.

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About the Editors: Margaret Drabble is one of modern Britain's most distinguished novelists. Her books include *The Middle Ground*, *The Realms of Gold*, *The Ice Age*, and *A Writer's Britain*. Jenny Stringer was an assistant editor of *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, Fifth Edition and has since contributed to and edited several other reference works.

I bought this book for my high school age daughter when she was studying for the English Literature CLEP exam. This book is like a dictionary in that people, places, terms are arranged in alphabetical order and includes a paragraph or more about each topic. It is to be used as a reference guide. If a student needs to find a certain author or book he can easily locate a brief description. It is a handy book to have alongside other study materials and the internet.

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This is a compact version of the 6th edition of the Oxford Companion to English Literature. The emphasis is naturally on British literature (John Galt is not listed as a character in *Atlas Shrugged*, but as a Scottish novelist). There is coverage of writers from the United States, Canada, Africa, the

Caribbean, and India. Among the entries are:- short biographies of novelists, dramatists and poets, and also a few philosophers (Swedenborg), historians, scholars, critics, biographers, travel writers, and journalists- plot summaries and descriptions of poems Other notable entries:- literary and intellectual movements, genres, and critical theory- figures in Irish mythology- gay and lesbian literature- literary societies, libraries, publishers, and even coffee houses Certain topics get a two-page treatment. (Black British literature, science fiction, structuralism and post-structuralism, ghost stories, post-colonial literature, romantic fiction, spy fiction, etc.) There's no editorializing. They "describe and characterize rather than judge."

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