Contemporary Literature Criticism Online

This database provides access to 293 volumes of author biographies and literary criticism on works by authors who are still active or passed away after 1959.

Follow the steps in this guide for best results or ask your librarian for help!

This database is accessible from any computer with internet access.

The link is http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/pl2677?db=LCO

OR simply click on Contemporary Literature Criticism Online from the Resources for Students page of the High-School Library Website.

www.pinerichland.org

→ Select Pine-Richland High School from the drop down menu in the top left corner

→ Select Library from the top green menu bar

→ Choose Resources for Students

→ Click on the link for Contemporary Literary Criticism Online.

*The library ID for Pine-Richland students is ram.*
To locate an Author Biography

Choose “Browse Authors” from the menu tabs at the top of the page.

Type the author’s last name in the search box near the top left of the search screen.

Select your author’s name from the results list.

A new results list will appear. Choose a selection that is marked “Author Overview.” The author overview will contain biographical information as well as lists of principal works followed by literary criticism on the author’s works.

*It is important to remember that this database includes CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS, defined as authors who are still alive today or who passed away AFTER 1959. This database does not contain information on Franz Kafka who wrote in the late 1800s and passed away in 1924, for example.
Author Biography

American novelist, short story writer, playwright, non-fiction writer, journalist, and screenwriter.

The following entry presents an overview of Steinbeck's career. For further information about his life and works, see CEC, Volumes 1, 5, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

INTRODUCTION

John Steinbeck 1902-1968

Steinbeck is among the most enduring American authors of the twentieth century, best known for Of Mice and Men (1937), East of Eden (1952), and his Pulitzer prize-winning masterpiece The Grapes of Wrath (1939). Steinbeck is distinguished for his lucid prose, engaging narrative descriptions, small-scale symbols, and examination of the myth of America as an idyllic paradise. Sympathetic to the plight of the impoverished and downtrodden, his Depression-era fiction offers poignant depictions of socio-economic conditions and human realities in the American West during the 1930s. Though controversial for the most socialist views expressed in much of his work, he continues to receive critical acclaim for his best-selling novels, several of which were adapted into successful motion pictures and plays. The distinctly American perspective and journalistic realism of Steinbeck's social protest novels struck an emotional chord with the reading public and exerted an important influence on contemporary literature. Biographical Information

Born in California's Salinas Valley, which serves as the backdrop for much of his work, Steinbeck was one of four children of Olive Hamilton Steinbeck, a teacher, and John Ernst Steinbeck Sr., the operator of Monterey County fruit warehouses. From 1915 to 1916, Steinbeck and his first wife, Carol Henning, lived in Pacific Grove, California. During this time, Steinbeck often visited Ricketts at his laboratory on Cannery Row in Monterey and later translated the experiences to Cannery Row (1934). Steinbeck became known to the American public in 1936 with the publication of Tortilla Flat (1935), which was a best-seller. His meeting with his second wife, Gail Hamilton, ended his marriage to Carol Henning in 1940. They were married in 1943 and moved to Pacific Palisades, California.
To locate a Work Overview

Choose “Browse Works” from the menu tabs at the top of the page.

Type the title of the work in the search box near the top left of the search screen, excluding leading articles A, An or The.

Select your title from the results list.

A new results list will appear. Choose a selection that contains the name of the work in bold and is marked “Work Overview.” The work overview will contain an introduction to the book and summarize the plot, major characters and themes.

**NOTE:** If you search for a work and do not find an entry marked as “Work Overview” there may still be literary criticism on the title in this database, it just requires a little more effort to locate. Begin with any entry in your returned results and click on the “Inside This Entry” link. The title is likely mentioned in the criticism, however the article may focus on several works by the author, be a comparison of other related works or only briefly refer to the title.

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Work Overview
“Browse Topics” Option

The “Browse Topics” menu option offers a wide breadth of information that can be used for student research on many issues and trends in writing and literature, such as feminist criticism, graphic novels, multiculturalism in literature or rap music among many others.