

Dostoevsky's The Idiot A Critical Companion

Jamaica Kincaid Michael Crichton Ray Bradbury Kaye Gibbons Stephen King Scott Turow Anne Tyler James Welch *A Critical Companion to Robert Zemeckis Revisiting Stephen King* Ray Bradbury Kurt Vonnegut John Irving Colleen McCullough Michael Crichton *Revisiting John Grisham* Gore Vidal Colleen McCullough Ursula K. Le Guin *A Critical Companion to Christopher Nolan* Elizabeth Paravisini-Gebert Elizabeth Trembley Robin Anne Reid Mary J. Demarr Sharon A. Russell Andrew F. Macdonald Paul Bail Mary Jane Lupton Adam Barkman Sharon A. Russell Robin Anne Reid Thomas Marvin Josie P. Campbell Mary J. Demarr Elizabeth A. Trembley Mary Beth Pringle Susan C. Baker Mary Jean DeMarr Susan M. Bernardo Isabelle Labrouillère

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with the publication of her novel *annie john* in 1985 jamaica kincaid entered the ranks of the best novelists of her generation her three autobiographical novels *annie john* *lucy* and *autobiography of my mother* and collection of short stories *at the bottom of the river* touch on the universal theme of coming of age and the female adolescent's need to sever her ties to her mother this angst is couched in the social landscape of post colonial antigua a small caribbean island whose legacy of racism affects kincaid's protagonists her fiction rewrites the history of the caribbean from a west indies perspective and this milieu colors the experiences of her characters following a biographical chapter paravisini gebert traces the development of kincaid's craft as a writer each of the novels and the collection of short stories is discussed in a separate chapter that includes sections on plot character theme and an alternate critical approach from which to read the novel such as feminist a complete primary and secondary bibliography and lists of selected reviews of kincaid's work complete the study

it will help chrichton's readers learn more about how significant events in his life affected the development of his fiction and literary style and how the heritage of popular fiction including mystery gothic adventure and science fiction influenced his writing this study provides close textual analysis of each novel by focusing on plot character development theme and critical interpretation

reviewers and critics have not always agreed on how well the science fiction label fit ray bradbury but the immense popularity of works like the martian chronicles and the illustrated man leaves no doubt as to the enduring status of

this important writer this critical companion examines in a literary heritage chapter the situation of bradbury s works within the science fiction genre and explores thematic concerns that set works like fahrenheit 451 and dandelion wine apart from conventional popular sf writings this introduction to bradbury written especially for students traces bradbury s interesting life examining his early literary efforts his forays into hollywood and his recent writing projects eight of bradbury s major works are discussed at length each in its own chapter including two works published within the last ten years a graveyard for lunatics 1990 and green shadows white whale 1992 clear thoughtful analysis is also given for the martian chronicles the illustrated man something wicked this way comes and death is a lonely business in each chapter analysis of the important literary components is given plot setting characters and themes in addition the genesis critical reception and an alternate reading of each work is also discussed in clear terms for students and general readers suggestions for further reading on bradbury and his writings are also provided in a select yet extensive bibliography this volume is ideal both for students reading bradbury for the first time and for dedicated bradbury fans who wish to appreciate his work with a deeper critical perspective

born to a tobacco farmer in rural north carolina kaye gibbons found her literary voice by speaking through the strong southern women who inhabit her novels while concentrating on the places and people she knows well gibbons has managed to speak for people who struggle to find their own place wherever they are and her books have reached a worldwide audience whether for students assigned to read ellen foster or for lovers of literature this companion the first and only book length study of its kind provides insights and interpretations that will help readers enjoy and better appreciate the novels of kaye gibbons beginning with a biographical chapter this companion shows how gibbons s own life came to shape her fiction her place in and contributions to the genre of the southern novel are considered and readers are taken through each of her six novels starting with the highly acclaimed ellen foster 1987 and concluding with on the occasion of my last afternoon 1998 for each work lucid analyses of plot character development theme and style are provided along with an alternate critical perspective the select bibliography includes reviews and further information on biographical and critical sources

each chapter deals with one novel and includes sections on plot and narrative structure character development and thematic concerns russell also draws comparisons to other novels in king s canon she shows how king uses horror science fiction and suspense to explore human relationships how he expands traditional approaches to the genre by combining elements of the various genres in his fiction and how he has continued to grow as an artist throughout his career

scott turow is a novelist lawyer and humanist who has fused his two passions writing and the law to create challenging novels that raise significant legal issues and test the justice of present laws in all of his books turow reveals the moral ambiguities that afflict both accuser and accused and challenges his readers to reconsider their preconceived notions of justice beginning with one l his first published work about the first year law school experience turow continues to capture his readers imaginations with books such as presumed innocent and

burden of proof

anne tyler s novels strike a deep chord of responsiveness in her readers because her novels bring to life contemporary characters to whom we can instantly relate and in whose experiences we can see mirrored our own tyler s novels deal with the human experience relationships between marital partners between parents and children between siblings the meaning of love the nature of identity impermanence and change and loss and continuity in anne tyler novels life is a complexity whose texture is built out of multiple layers in this insightful study paul bail shows us how tyler constructs the complex reality of life through character narrative point of view theme and literary devices with the exception of tyler s earliest two novels which she prefers to forget a chapter is devoted to each of the other novels she has written among the twelve are her unforgettable novels of family relationships and love loss and renewal such as dinner at the homesick restaurant the accidental tourist and breathing lessons also included is an analysis of tyler s most recent novel a patchwork planet following a biographical chapter that relates tyler s life to her work bail discusses the novels within the literary tradition of southern regional literature women s literature and popular culture he also explores the influence of religion on her writing each novel is discussed in an individual chapter that includes sections on plot characters themes literary devices historical setting and point of view bail also offers an alternate critical approach from which to read the novel such as feminist or multicultural criticism this study is ideal for students and readers of anne tyler and will enrich the reading and appreciation of her novels

provides an exploration of the man his writing and the impact and influence of his literary output offers an account of welch s life as a blackfoot indian and as a poet and novelist explores the themes and genres investigated in his writing

a critical companion to robert zemeckis offers a comprehensive academic and detailed study of the works of robert zemeckis whose films include successful productions such as the back to the future trilogy 1985 90 forrest gump 1994 contact 1997 cast away 2000 and the polar express 2004 but also lesser known films such as i wanna hold your hand 1978 used cars 1980 and allied 2015 most of zemeckis major productions were not only successful when they were first released but continue to enjoy popularity with critics and fans alike even today this volume investigates several distinct areas of zemeckis works and addresses the different approaches the philosophical the artistic the socio cultural and the personal the methodologies adopted by the contributors differ significantly from each other thus offering the reader a variegated and compelling picture of zemeckis oeuvre which includes nineteen films contrary to the few volumes published in the past on the subject the chapters in this volume offer specific case studies that have been previously ignored or only partially mentioned by other scholars a critical companion to robert zemeckis offers a great variety of interdisciplinary approaches to zemeckis films illuminating re reading and or interpreting for the first time the entire career of the director from his first films to the most recent ones

offers a critical introduction to the works of stephen king providing a brief biography and critical treatments of his eight most recent novels

provides the first full length critical treatment of science fiction writer ray

bradbury with accessible analysis of 8 of his major works

with a career spanning 50 years kurt vonnegut is one of the most prolific and popular american writers of the 20th century though his works have often met with mixed reviews and have been difficult to categorize his status of cultural icon and one of the most important contemporary novelists is well established this critical companion perfect for students skillfully guides readers through seven of vonnegut s most important novels including player piano 1952 mother night 1961 cat s cradle 1963 and slaughterhouse five 1969 a full chapter is devoted to each work with clear analysis of plot character development thematic concerns symbolism and a close critical reading a chapter on the life of kurt vonnegut gives an up to date biography with interesting details relating the facts of his life to his writings the literary contexts section devoted to examining issues of genre influences and themes in vonnegut s writing adds to a fuller understanding of the man and his literary works this exceptionally well written critical companion will help students and interested readers appreciate vonnegut s most important and popular novels close critical readings offer feminist marxist and new historicist perspectives on these works a bibliography helps students undertaking research identify additional sources for biographical and critical information and provides reviews and a comprehensive list of vonnegut s publications to date

one of america s most noted contemporary novelists john irving has created a body of fiction of extraordinary range moving with ease from romance to fairytale to thriller although his fiction follows in the tradition of the great 19th century world novelists he is a quintessential american writer his novels are laced with broad humor farce and absurd situations he does not hesitate to tackle the troubling issues that have faced our nation in the past few decades such as war racism sexism abortion violence and aids this study offers a clear accessible reading of irving s fiction it analyzes in turn all of his novels from setting free the bears 1968 to his newest novel a widow for one year 1998 it also provides the reader with a complete bibliography of irving s fiction as well as selected reviews and criticism following a biographical chapter on irving s life an overview of his fiction explores his work in light of his literary heritage and use of a variety of genres each of the following chapters examines an individual novel setting free the bears 1968 the water method man 1972 the 158 pound marriage 1973 the world according to garp 1976 the hotel new hampshire 1981 the cider house rules 1985 a prayer for Owen Meany 1989 a son of the circus 1994 and a widow for one year 1998 the discussion of each novel includes sections on plot and character development thematic issues and a new and fresh critical approach from which to read the novel campbell explores the great moral range in irving s novels she shows that all his novels deal with a character s quest to discover the self a journey of raw energy that touches us because we recognize it as our own this study will help readers to appreciate the experimental fiction that is irving s trademark and his ability to capture the essence of american life in the last part of the twentieth century

demarr discusses analyzes and evaluates each of mccullough s nine novels in turn relates it to the genre to which it belongs and compares it to her other work this study also features a biographical chapter and a chapter which discusses the variety of genres in which mccullough has written

until now michael crichton s many readers have had nowhere to turn for more information on one of america s most popular novelists this companion features clear analyses of crichton s life and literary influences as well as chapters on each of his 13 novels to date it will help crichton s readers to learn more about how significant events in his life affected the development of his fiction and literary style and how the heritage of popular fiction including mystery gothic adventure and science fiction influenced his writing this study provides close textual analysis of each of his novels in turn focusing on plot character development theme and critical interpretation

john grisham is one of the most prolific and beloved mystery writers today still reaching the top of the bestseller lists with books like the testament 1999 and king of torts 2003 in recent times he has also experimented with different genres such as a painted house 2001 a semi autobiographical work and skipping christmas 2001 a holiday narrative this volume follows up the critical analysis of grisham s work in john grisham a critical companion examining his writing from 1997 to the present

baker and gibson show that while vidal s novels are tremendously entertaining they are also serious examinations of a recurring theme the decline of the west in general and the decline of the united states in particular

the first book length study of the work of collen mccullough author of the thorn birds and other popular novels

though science fiction has existed as a literary genre for well over a century a working definition of the term has yet to be determined ursula k le guin who emerged as a popular science fiction and fantasy writer in the 1960s has not only witnessed but also experienced first hand the shifts and transformations of this increasingly popular genre delve into her fantastical worlds and investigate several of her famous works in this study ideal for high school and undergraduate students learn about the author s life and decade spanning career as well as her numerous literary achievements this comprehensive analysis of le guin s work will leave readers anxious for her future endeavors

a critical companion to christopher nolan provides a wide ranging exploration of christopher nolan s films practices and collaborations from a range of critical perspectives this volume examines nolan s body of work explores its industrial and economic contexts and interrogates the director s auteur status this volume contributes to the scholarly debates on nolan and includes original essays that examine all his films including his short films it is structured into three sections that deal broadly with themes of narrative and time collaborations and relationships and ideology politics and genre the authors of the sixteen chapters include established nolan scholars as well as academics with expertise in approaches and perspectives germane to the study of nolan s body of work to these ends the chapters employ intersectional feminist political ideological narrative economic aesthetic genre and auteur analysis in addition to perspectives from star theory short film theory performance studies fan studies adaptation studies musicology and media industry studies

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