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Literature of Developing Nations

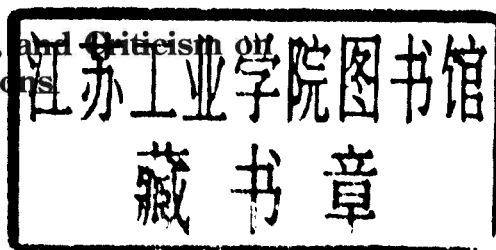
for Students

Volume I

Literature of Developing Nations *for Students*

Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism
Literature of Developing Nations

Volume 1



Elizabeth Bellalouna, Michael L. LaBlanc, and Ira Mark Milne, Editors



Literature of Developing Nations for Students

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Introduction

Purpose of the Book

The purpose of *Literature of Developing Nations for Students (LDNfS)* is to provide readers with a guide to understanding, enjoying, and studying novels by giving them easy access to information about the work. Part of Gale's "For Students" Literature line, *LDNfS* is specifically designed to meet the curricular needs of high school and undergraduate college students and their teachers, as well as the interests of general readers and researchers considering specific literary works. Each volume has entries on literary works by international authors (both men and women) of developing nations.

The information covered in each entry includes an introduction to the literary work and the author of the literary work; a plot summary, to help readers unravel and understand the events in a literary work; descriptions of important characters, including explanation of a given character's role in the literary work as well as discussion about that character's relationship to other characters in the literary work (please note that entries dealing with poems do not have descriptions of characters); analysis of important themes in the literary work; and an explanation of important literary techniques and movements as they are demonstrated in the literary work.

In addition to this material, which helps the readers analyze the literary work itself, students are also provided with important information on the literary and historical background informing each

work. This includes a historical context essay, a box comparing the time or place the literary work was written to modern Western culture, a critical overview essay, and excerpts from critical essays on the literary work. A unique feature of *LDNfS* is a specially commissioned overview essay on each literary work, targeted toward the student reader.

To further aid the student in studying and enjoying each literary work, information on media adaptations is provided, as well as reading suggestions for works of fiction and nonfiction on similar themes and topics. Classroom aids include ideas for research papers and lists of critical sources that provide additional material on the literary work.

Selection Criteria

The titles for each volume of *LDNfS* were selected by surveying numerous sources on teaching literature and analyzing course curricula for various school districts. Some of the sources surveyed included: literature anthologies; *Reading Lists for College-Bound Students: The Books Most Recommended by America's Top Colleges*; textbooks on teaching dramas, novels, poems, and short stories; College Board surveys of dramas, novels, and poems commonly studied in high schools; National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) surveys of dramas, novels, and poems commonly studied in high schools; and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) list of best books for young adults of the past twenty-five years.

Input was also solicited from our expert advisory board, as well as educators from various areas. Because of the interest in expanding the canon of literature, an emphasis was placed on including as wide a range of international, multicultural, and women authors of developing nations as possible. Our advisory board members—current high school and college teachers—helped pare down the list for each volume. If a work was not selected for the present volume, it was often noted as a possibility for a future volume. As always, the editors welcome suggestions for titles to be included in future volumes.

How Each Entry Is Organized

Each entry, or chapter, in *LDNfS* focuses on one literary work. Each entry heading lists the full name of the literary work, the author's name, and the date of publication of the literary work. The following elements are contained in each entry:

- **Introduction:** a brief overview of the literary work which provides information about its first appearance, its literary standing, any controversies surrounding the work, and major conflicts or themes within the work.
- **Author Biography:** this section includes basic facts about the author's life, and focuses on events and times in the author's life that inspired the literary work in question.
- **Plot Summary:** a description of the major events in the literary work. Lengthy summaries are broken down with subheads.
- **Characters:** an alphabetical listing of major characters in the literary work (except poems). Each character name is followed by a brief to an extensive description of the character's role in the literary work, as well as discussion of the character's actions, relationships, and possible motivation.

Characters are listed alphabetically by last name. If a character is unnamed—for instance, the narrator in *Invisible Man*—the character is listed as "The Narrator" and alphabetized as "Narrator." If a character's first name is the only one given, the name will appear alphabetically by that name.

Variant names are also included for each character. Thus, the full name "Jean Louise Finch" would head the listing for the narrator of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but listed in a separate cross-reference would be the nickname "Scout Finch."
- **Themes:** a thorough overview of how the major topics, themes, and issues are addressed within the literary work. Each theme discussed appears in a separate subhead, and is easily accessed

through the boldface entries in the Subject/Theme Index.

- **Style:** this section addresses important style elements of the literary work, such as setting, point of view, and narration; important literary devices used, such as imagery, foreshadowing, symbolism; and, if applicable, genres to which the work might have belonged, such as Gothicism or Romanticism. Literary terms are explained within the entry, but can also be found in the Glossary.
- **Literary Heritage:** this section gives a brief overview of the literary tradition (or oral tradition, if a literary tradition is lacking) that lies behind and provides a context for a given work.
- **Historical Context:** This section outlines the social, political, and cultural climate *in which the author lived and the literary work was created*. This section may include descriptions of related historical events, pertinent aspects of daily life in the culture, and the artistic and literary sensibilities of the time in which the work was written. If the literary work is a historical work, information regarding the time in which the literary work is set is also included. Each section is broken down with helpful subheads.
- **Critical Overview:** this section provides background on the critical reputation of the literary work, including bannings or any other public controversies surrounding the work. For older works, this section includes a history of how the literary work was first received and how perceptions of it may have changed over the years; for more recent literary works, direct quotes from early reviews may also be included.
- **Criticism:** an essay commissioned by *LDNfS* which specifically deals with the literary work and is written specifically for the student audience, as well as excerpts from previously published criticism on the work (if available).
- **Sources:** an alphabetical list of critical material quoted in the entry, with full bibliographical information.
- **Further Reading:** an alphabetical list of other critical sources which may prove useful for the student. Includes full bibliographical information and a brief annotation.

In addition, each entry contains the following highlighted sections, set apart from the main text as sidebars:

- **Media Adaptations:** a list of important film and television adaptations of the literary work, including source information. The list also includes stage adaptations, audio recordings, musical adaptations, etc.
- **Topics for Further Study:** a list of potential study questions or research topics dealing with the literary work. This section includes questions related to other disciplines the student may be studying, such as American history, world history, science, math, government, business, geography, economics, psychology, etc.
- **Compare and Contrast Box:** an “at-a-glance” comparison of the cultural and historical differences between the author’s time and culture and late twentieth-century Western culture. This box includes pertinent parallels between the major scientific, political, and cultural movements of the time or place the literary work was written, the time or place the literary work was set (if a historical work), and modern Western culture. Works written after the mid-1970s may not have this box.
- **What Do I Read Next?:** a list of works that might complement the featured literary work or serve as a contrast to it. This includes works by the same author and others, works of fiction and nonfiction, and works from various genres, cultures, and eras.

Other Features

A Cumulative Author/Title Index lists the authors and titles covered in each volume of the *LDNfS* series.

A Cumulative Nationality/Ethnicity Index breaks down the authors and titles covered in each volume of the *LDNfS* series by nationality and ethnicity.

A Subject/Theme Index, specific to each volume, provides easy reference for users who may be studying a particular subject or theme rather than a single work. Significant subjects from events to broad themes are included, and the entries pointing to the specific theme discussions in each entry are indicated in **boldface**.

Each entry has several illustrations, including photos of the author, stills from film adaptations (if available), maps, and/or photos of key historical events.

Citing Literature of Developing Nations for Students

When writing papers, students who quote directly from any volume of *Literature of Developing Nations for Students* may use the following general forms. These examples are based on MLA style; teachers may request that students adhere to a different style, so the following examples may be adapted as needed.

When citing text from *LDNfS* that is not attributed to a particular author (i.e., the Themes, Style, Historical Context sections, etc.), the following format should be used in the bibliography section:

“Anowa.” *Literature of Developing Nations for Students*. Eds. Elizabeth Bellalouna, Michael L. LaBlanc, and Ira Mark Milne. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2000. 72–4.

When quoting the specially commissioned essay from *LDNfS* (usually the first piece under the “Criticism” subhead), the following format should be used:

Petrusso, Annette. Essay on “Anowa,” *Literature of Developing Nations for Students*. Eds. Elizabeth Bellalouna, Michael L. LaBlanc, and Ira Mark Milne. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2000. 75–8.

When quoting a journal or newspaper essay that is reprinted in a volume of *LDNfS*, the following form may be used:

Cohen, Derek. “Athol Fugard’s ‘Boesman and Lena,’” in *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, Vol. XII, No. 3 April, 1978, 78–83; excerpted and reprinted in *Literature of Developing Nations for Students*, Vol. 1, eds. Elizabeth Bellalouna, Michael L. LaBlanc, and Ira Mark Milne (Detroit: Gale, 2000), pp. 177–80.

When quoting material reprinted from a book that appears in a volume of *NfS*, the following form may be used:

Myriam J. A. Chancy, “Lespoua fe viv: Female Identity and the Politics of Textual Sexuality in Nadine Magloire’s ‘Le Mal de Vivre’ and Edwidge Danticat’s ‘Breath, Eyes, Memory,’” in *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women* (Rutgers University Press, 1997), pp. 120–33; excerpted and reprinted in *Literature of Developing Nations for Students*, Vol. 1, eds. Elizabeth Bellalouna, Michael L. LaBlanc, and Ira Mark Milne (Detroit: Gale, 2000), pp. 195–201.

We Welcome Your Suggestions

The editors of *Literature of Developing Nations for Students* welcome your comments and ideas. Readers who wish to suggest novels to appear in future volumes, or who have other suggestions, are cordially invited to contact the editors. You may contact the editors via e-mail at:

mark.milne@galegroup.com. Or write to the
editors at:

Editors, *Literature of Developing Nations for
Students*

Gale Group

27500 Drake Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535

Literary Chronology

- 1889:** Gabriela Mistral is born Lucia Goday Alcayaga in Vicuna, in the Elqui valley in northern Chile on April 7.
- 1890:** Jean Rhys is born Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams in 1890 in Dominica.
- 1896:** Manuel Rojas is born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on January 8.
- 1899:** Jorge Luis Borges is born into an old, wealthy, Argentinean family in Buenos Aires on August 24.
- 1904:** Pablo Neruda is born Neftalí Ricardo Reyes Basoalto in the town of Parral in southern Chile.
- 1906:** Leopold Sedar Senghor is born in Joal, a village in Central Senegal.
- 1907:** Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan is born in Madras (now known as Chennai), South India, on October 10.
- 1914:** Octavio Paz is born Octavio Paz Lozano in Mexico City in the middle of the Mexican Revolution.
- 1918:** Juan José Arreola is born on September 12 in Ciudad Guzman, in Jalisco, Mexico.
- 1920:** Clarice Lispector, the youngest of three daughters, is born in Tchetchnik, Ukraine, to Ukrainian parents on December 10.
- 1920:** Amos Tutuola is born in Abeokuta, Western Nigeria, in 1920.
- 1924:** Gabriela Mistral's poem about motherhood, "Fear," is published in her second collection of poetry.
- 1925:** Rosa (Cuthbert) Guy is born in Diego Martin, Trinidad, on September 1.
- 1927:** Manuel Rojas publishes one of his best known and most widely anthologized tales, "The Glass of Milk."
- 1928:** Gabriel García Márquez is born March 6 in Aracataca, Colombia.
- 1928:** Carlos Fuentes is born on November 11 in Panama City.
- 1929:** Miriam Bâ is born.
- 1930:** Chinua Achebe is born in eastern Nigeria on November 16.
- 1930:** Derek Walcott is born January 23 in the capital city of Castries on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Lucia.
- 1932:** Athol Harold Lannigan Fugard is born June 11 in Middelburg, a small village in the semi-desert Karoo region of South Africa.
- 1932:** Manuel Puig is born on December 28 in General Villegas, in the pampas of Argentina.
- 1934:** Austin C. Clarke is born on July 26 in St. James, Barbados.
- 1936:** Mario Vargas Llosa is born in Arequipa, Peru.

- 1937:** Anita Desai is born Anita Mazumdar on June 24 in Mussoorie, India.
- 1938:** Ngugi wa Thiong'o is born James Thiong'o Ngugi, in Limuru, Kenya, on January 5.
- 1938:** José Raúl Bernardo is born on October 3 in Havana, Cuba.
- 1939:** "Pierre Menard, Author of Quixote" is first published.
- 1940:** Ama Ata Aidoo is born Christina Ama Aidoo on March 23 in Abeadzi Kyiakor, Gold Coast (now known as Ghana).
- 1940:** Bharati Mukherjee is born into an elite caste level of Calcutta society on July 27.
- 1941:** Jorge Luis Borges establishes his reputation as a writer of fiction with the publication of his short story "The Garden of Forking Paths."
- 1942:** Isabel Angelica Allende is born on August 2 in Lima, Peru.
- 1943:** Gita Mehta is born in New Delhi, India.
- 1945:** Gabriela Mistral receives the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 1945:** "Prayer to the Masks" is published in Senghor's first collection, *Songs of the Shadow*.
- 1947:** First published in India in the newspaper *The Hindu*, R.K. Narayan's short story "An Astrologers Day" becomes the title story of a collection of short stories.
- 1949:** Jamaica Kincaid is born in Antigua on May 25 as Elaine Potter Richardson.
- 1949:** Victor Hernández Cruz is born in the barrio El Guanabano in the town of Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico.
- 1951:** Laura Esquivel is born in Mexico.
- 1952:** Judith Ortiz Cofer is born February 24 in Hormigueros, Puerto Rico.
- 1952:** "The Switchman" is published in the collection *Confabulario*.
- 1953:** Ana Castillo, a leading voice in the Chicana/o movement, is born.
- 1954:** Omar Sigfrido Castaneda is born on September 6 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, but grows up in Michigan and Indiana after his family moves to the United States.
- 1954:** Octavio Paz publishes "Fable" after returning to Mexico from Paris.
- 1956:** "Ode to My Socks" ("Oda a los calcetines") is published.
- 1957:** Gabriela Mistral dies in Rosalyn Bay, Long Island, in January.
- 1958:** Christina Garcia is born in Havana, Cuba, on July 4. Garcia moves to the U.S. with her parents when she is two years old.
- 1958:** *Where the Air Is Clear* is published.
- 1959:** Rigoberta Menchu is born to poor Native Indian parents in Guatemala.
- 1960:** Clarice Lispector's story about personal relationships, "Family Ties," is published.
- 1962:** Derek Walcott's poem about the Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya, "A Far Cry from Africa," is published.
- 1962:** *The Time of the Hero*, Mario Vargas Llosa's first novel, is published in 1962.
- 1967:** Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walcott publishes the play *Dream on Monkey Mountain*.
- 1967:** *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is published.
- 1968:** Gabriel García Márquez publishes "The Handsomest Drowned Man."
- 1969:** Edwidge Danticat is born January 19 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
- 1969:** Athol Fugard's *Boesman and Lena* premieres at the Rhodes University Little Theatre in Grahamstown, South Africa, on July 10.
- 1969:** Joanne Hyppolite is born in Les Cayes, Haiti. Her family moves to the United States when she is four years old.
- 1970:** Ama Ata Aidoo's *Anowa* is first published (although Aidoo had begun writing the play in the late 1960s), and later makes its British premiere in London in 1991.
- 1970:** Aidoo's first collection of short stories, *No Sweetness Here*, is published.
- 1971:** Pablo Neruda is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 1973:** Manuel Rojas dies in his adopted homeland of Chile on March 11.

- 1973:** "Business" is one of a suite of five poems published in Victor Hernández Cruz's collection *Mainland*.
- 1973:** Rosa Guy publishes the first of her trilogy of young adult novels, *The Friends*.
- 1973:** Pablo Neruda dies of cancer in Santiago on September 23.
- 1974:** The short story "The Martyr" by Kenyan novelist Ngugi wa Thiong'o, East Africa's leading writer, is first published in his collection *Secret Lives and Other Stories*.
- 1976:** Manuel Puig publishes his best known novel, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.
- 1977:** Clarice Lispector dies on December 9.
- 1977:** After six years of work, Ngugi wa Thiong'o publishes *Petals of Blood*.
- 1978:** Jamaica Kincaid's short story "Girl" is first published in the June 26 issue of *The New Yorker*.
- 1978:** Anita Desai's short story "Studies in the Park" is first published, in her collection *Games at Twilight*.
- 1979:** Manuel Puig is awarded the American Library Association Notable Book Award for *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.
- 1979:** Jean Rhys dies at the age of 88.
- 1980:** Miriam Bâ publishes *So Long a Letter*.
- 1981:** Miriam Bâ dies after a long illness.
- 1982:** Isabelle Allende establishes her literary reputation with the publication of *The House of the Spirits*.
- 1982:** Gabriel García Márquez wins the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 1984:** Rigoberta Menchú stirs international debate over the treatment of Native Indians with the publication of her autobiography *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*.
- 1985:** Jamaica Kincaid's second book, *Annie John*—comprised of short stories that first appeared in *The New Yorker*, is published.
- 1986:** Jorge Luis Borges dies of liver cancer in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 1987:** After a twenty-one-year hiatus from writing, Chinua Achebe publishes *Anthills of the Savannah* in Great Britain.
- 1988:** Bharati Mukherjee's short story "The Middleman" is originally included in her second collection of short fiction, *The Middleman and Other Stories*, which won the 1988 Book Critics Circle Award for best fiction.
- 1989:** Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, the story of a widowed Punjabi peasant reinventing herself in America, is published.
- 1989:** Laura Esquivel publishes her first novel, *Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments, with Recipes, Romances and Home Remedies*, which becomes a bestseller in Mexico and is successful in the United States.
- 1990:** Manuel Puig dies from complications following a gallbladder operation.
- 1990:** Austin C. Clarke's short story "Leaving This Island Place" is published in the short story collection *From Ink Lake: Canadian Stories*.
- 1990:** Octavio Paz is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1990:** Amos Tutuola publishes *The Village Witch Doctor and Other Stories*.
- 1991:** Omar S. Castaneda's *Among the Volcanoes*, a coming-of-age story written for young adults and set in a place far removed from the environments familiar to American readers, is published.
- 1992:** Rigoberta Menchu is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1992:** Judith Ortiz Cofer first publishes "The Latin Deli: An Ars Poetica" in *Americas Review*.
- 1992:** Derek Walcott is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his poetry.
- 1993:** Gita Mehta publishes *A River Sutra*.
- 1993:** "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote" is published.
- 1993:** *So Far From God* is published.
- 1994:** Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory* is published. Danticat is hailed by *Publishers Weekly* as "a distinctive new voice with a sensitive insight into Haitian culture."
- 1995:** Judith Ortiz Cofer publishes "Bad Influence" in *Stories of the Barrio: An Island Like You*.
- 1995:** *Seth and Samona* is published in 1995.

1996: Laura Esquivel publishes her second novel, *The Law of Love*.

1996: *Valley Song* is published.

1966: *Wide Sargasso Sea* is published.

1997: Omar S. Castaneda dies of a heroin overdose in January.

1997: Cristina Garcia's *The Aguero Sisters* is published.

1997: Tutuola dies of diabetes and hypertension on June 8 in poverty and obscurity, having been

unable to afford adequate medical attention for his ailments.

1998: Isabel Allende's literary celebration of sex and food, *Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses*, makes its way onto the *New York Times* best-seller list.

1998: *The Farming of the Bones* is published.

1998: Octavio Paz dies on April 19.

1998: José Raúl Bernardo publishes his historical novel *Silent Wing*.

Acknowledgments

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Contributors

Diane Andrews Henningfeld: Andrews Henningfeld is associate professor of English at Adrian College in Michigan; she has written extensively for a variety of educational and academic publishers. Entry on "The Garden of Forking Paths." Original essay on "The Garden of Forking Paths."

Cynthia Bily: Bily teaches writing and literature at Adrian College in Adrian, MI, and writes for various educational publishers. Entry on "Girl." Original essays on *Anthills of the Savannah*, and "Girl."

Adrian Blevins: Blevins, a poet and essayist who has taught at Hollins University, Sweet Briar College, and in the Virginia Community College System, is the author of *The Man Who Went Out for Cigarettes*, a chapbook of poems, and has published poems, stories, and essays in many magazines, journals, and anthologies. Original essay on "Girl."

Liz Brent: Brent has a Ph.D. in American Culture, specializing in cinema studies, from the University of Michigan; she is a freelance writer and teaches courses in American cinema. Entries on *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, "Leaving This Island Place," "The Martyr," "The Middleman," "No Sweetness Here," "Studies in the Park," and "The Village Witch Doctor." Original essays on *Anowa*, "Bad Influence," "Family Ties," "The Garden of Forking Paths," "Girl," "The Glass of Milk," "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the

World," *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, "Leaving This Island Place," "Management of Grief," "The Martyr," "The Middleman," "No Sweetness Here," "Studies in the Park," and "The Village Witch Doctor."

Jennifer Bussey: Bussey holds a bachelor's degree in English literature and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies; she is an independent writer specializing in literature. Entries on *Among the Volcanoes* and *Anthills of the Savannah*. Original essays on *Among the Volcanoes*, *Anthills of the Savannah*, "Management of Grief," and "Studies in the Park."

David Donnell: Donnell teaches at the University of Toronto, and has published seven books of poetry. His work is included in the *Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*, and his volume *Settlement* has received Canada's prestigious Governor General's Award. Original essay on "A Far Cry from Africa."

Donald G. Evans: Evans is an adjunct professor at Hamilton College in Cedar Rapids, IA, as well as a free-lance writer for *Advertising Age* and editor for *Story Quarterly*. Entry on *Jasmine*. Original essay on *Jasmine*.

Darren Felty: Felty is visiting instructor at the College of Charleston, SC, and has a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Georgia. Entry on *Annie John*. Original essay on *Annie John*.

James Frazier: Frazier has an M.A. with a major in English literature from the University of Texas at Austin; he also teaches English and speech at Lytle High School, Lytle, TX. Entry on "The Management of Grief." Original essay on "The Management of Grief."

Lane A. Glenn: Glenn is an author, educator, director, and actor, located in Lansing, MI. Entries on *Boesman and Lena* and *Valley Song*. Original essays on *Boesman and Lena* and *Valley Song*.

Carole Hamilton: Hamilton is a freelance writer and an instructor at Cary Academy, Cary, NC. Entries on "Family Ties," *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, and "Pierre Menard, Author of Quixote." Original essays on "Family Ties," *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, and "Pierre Menard, Author of Quixote."

Jhan Hochman: Hochman holds a Ph.D. in English and an M.A. in cinema studies; his articles have appeared in *Democracy and Nature*, *Genre*, *ISLE*, and *Mosaic*. Entry on "A Far Cry from Africa." Original essay on "A Far Cry from Africa."

Jeremy W. Hubbell: Hubbell is a freelance writer, holds an M.Litt. from the University of Aberdeen, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in history at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Entries on *Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses*, *The Time of the Hero*, and *Where the Air is Clear*. Original essays on *Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses*, *The Time of the Hero*, and *Where the Air is Clear*.

Elizabeth Judd: Judd is a freelance writer and book reviewer with an M.F.A. in English from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Yale. Entry on *The Aguero Sisters*. Original essay on *The Aguero Sisters*.

Chelva Kanaganayakam: Kanaganayakam is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto; his writings include *Structures of Negation: The Writings of Zulfikar Ghose*, *South Asian Writers and their Worlds*, and *Dark Antonyms and Paradise: The Poetry of Rienzi Crusz*. Entry on "An Astrologer's Day." Original essay on "An Astrologer's Day."

David J. Kelly: Kelly is a professor of English at College of Lake County, IL. Entries on "Fear" and "Seth and Samona." Original essays on "Fear" and "Seth and Samona."

Lydia S. Kim: Kim holds an M.S. Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and teaches language arts and social studies at Cary Academy, Cary, NC. Entry on *I, Rigoberta Menchu*. Original essay on *I, Rigoberta Menchu*.

Rena Korb: Korb has a master's degree in English literature and creative writing, and has written for a wide variety of educational publishers. Original essays on "Family Ties," "The Friends," and "The Middleman."

Uma Kukathas: Kukathas is a freelance writer and a student in the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Washington, specializing in social, political, and moral philosophy. Entries on "Fable," "Ode to My Socks," and *Petals of Blood*. Original essays on "Fable," "Ode to My Socks," and *Petals of Blood*.

Aviya Kushner: Aviya Kushner is the Contributing Editor in Poetry at *BarnesandNoble.com* and the Poetry Editor of *Newworld Magazine*. She is a graduate of the acclaimed creative writing program in poetry at Boston University, where she received the Fitzgerald Award in Translation. Her writing on poetry has appeared in *Harvard Review* and *The Boston Phoenix*, and she has served as Poetry Coordinator for *AGNI Magazine*. She has given readings of her own work throughout the United States, and she teaches at Massachusetts Communications College in Boston. Original essay on "A Far Cry from Africa."

Kimberly Lutz: Lutz is an instructor at New York University, and has written for a wide variety of educational publishers. Entries on *A River Sutra*, *So Long A Letter*, and *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Original essays on *A River Sutra*, *So Long A Letter*, and *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

Jennifer Lynch: Lynch teaches at the Potrero Hill After School Program and the Taos Literacy Program; she also contributes to *Geronimo*, a journal of politics and culture. Entries on "Bad Influence" and "The Switchman." Original essays on "Bad Influence" and "The Switchman."

Sarah Madsen Hardy: Madsen Hardy has a doctorate in English literature, and is a freelance writer and editor. Original Essay on "Girl."

Mary Mahony: Mahony has an M.A. in English from the University of Detroit and an M.L.S. from Wayne State University; she is an instructor of English at Wayne County Community