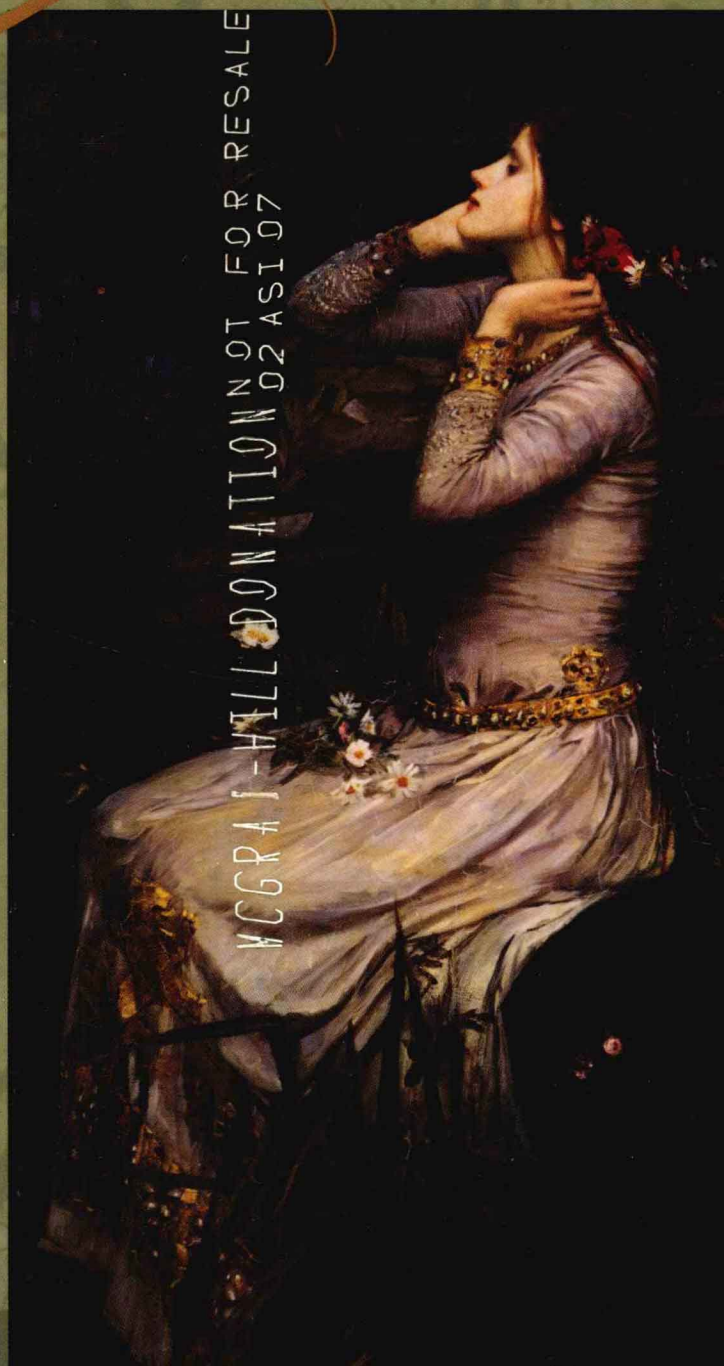


# Literature

APPROACHES  
TO FICTION,  
POETRY,  
AND  
DRAMA

ROBERT  
DIYANNI



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# Literature

## *Approaches to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*



Robert DiYanni  
*New York University*



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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 KGP/KGP 0 9 8 7 6 5

**ISBN** 0-07-288184-4 (hard cover)

0-07-255806-7 (soft cover)

**Library of Congress Control Number:** 2003107393 (soft cover)

2003107394 (hard cover)

President of McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences: *Steve Debow*

Senior sponsoring editor: *Alexis Walker*

Developmental editor: *Anne Stameshkin*

Executive marketing manager: *David S. Patterson*

Senior project manager: *Jean Hamilton*

Production supervisor: *Carol Bielski*

Designer: *Cassandra Chu*

Cover design: *Cassandra Chu*

Interior design: *Kiera Cunningham and Glenda King*

Cover photo credit: *Ophelia by John William Waterhouse, 1894. © Christie's Images/CORBIS*

Photo research coordinator: *Alex Ambrose*

Lead supplement producer: *Marc Mattson*

Associate art editor: *Cristin Yancey*

Compositor: *GAC*

Typeface: *11.5/12 Bembo*

Printer: *Quebecor World Kingsport Inc.*

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—**Margaret Whitt**, University of Denver

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"This book fills a need for an affordable text for introductory courses in literature. It is not only well-organized and thoughtful, it is a manageable text in both one or two-semester courses."

—**David A. Salomon**, Black Hills State University

# About the Author



Robert DiYanni, Director of K-12 International Services for the College Board, is Adjunct Professor of Humanities at New York University. Dr. DiYanni, who earned his A.B. from Rutgers and his Ph.D. from the City University of New York, taught for many years at Queens College (CUNY), Pace, and Harvard. He has published more than twenty-five books on writing, literature, and humanities, mostly for university students. In addition to *Literature*, his books include *Modern American Poets*, *Modern American Prose*, *The McGraw-Hill Book of Poetry*, *The McGraw-Hill Book of Fiction*, *Encounters*, *The Scribner Handbook for Writers*, *Writing about the Humanities*, and *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*.

*For the Bedford, NY Library Reading Group*

# Preface



*Literature: Approaches to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* examines literature as a significant reflection of life and an imaginative extension of its possibilities; it emphasizes the *reading* of literature as an active enterprise involving thought and invoking feeling. As a reader of this text, you will be asked to consider why you respond to works of literature in certain ways and how your responses may change upon reflection, rereading, and reconsideration.

Like the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *Literature* from which it is derived, *Literature: Approaches to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* includes the following key features:

- A distinctive three-part pedagogy that asks you to consider your **experience** of literature, form an **interpretation** of it, and, finally, engage in **evaluation**—a judgment concerning social, cultural, political, and other values that the work reflects or embodies
- Comprehensive introductions to fiction, poetry, and drama that focus on the **elements** of each genre
- **Diverse selections** that represent a wide range of styles and voices across the genres and that cover a broad spectrum of time periods and cultural perspectives
- **Authors in Context** sections featuring multiple selections and extensive introductions to the life and work of selected authors: two fiction writers (Edgar Allan Poe and Flannery O'Connor), three poets (Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and Langston Hughes), and three playwrights (Sophocles, Shakespeare, and Ibsen)
- **Transformations**, which explores poetry through revision, parody, translation, response, and adaptation, including a **full-color section** of paintings inspired by or inspiring poems

- **Poetry of the World** (in translation), representing poets from around the globe.
- **Connections questions** that link works in each genre with others that are thematically, stylistically, historically, or contextually related
- **Photos**—author portraits, manuscripts, covers, and other illustrations—that add a visual dimension to the study of literature
- **Timelines** (in the *Authors in Context* sections, in an *Appendix* at the end of the book) that provide historical context for the authors and their works
- **An introduction to critical theory** that demonstrates the analysis of a poem (Dickinson’s “I’m ‘wife’”) and a short story (“The Use of Force”) using ten different critical approaches
- **An introduction to writing with sources**, following the 2003 MLA guidelines for documentation

In addition, *Literature* offers the following **new features**:

1. **Literature in the News:** These sections feature timely newspaper and magazine articles covering a wide variety of topics, including Multiculturalism in the Classroom: the place of *Catcher in the Rye* in the classroom (and the canon), Oprah’s Book Club, Shakespeare and Sexuality, Billy Collins as Modern Popular Bard, and more. Each boxed item includes a headnote discussing the significance of the issue; the article or an excerpt from it; and questions inviting readers to think critically about the topic.
2. **New Voices:** Each genre features two New Voices, authors whose work has never before been anthologized in an introductory literature anthology. As the canon of literary works continues to evolve, readers are invited to participate in the dialogue about new authors and their works.
3. **“Writers inspired by”** sections highlight the work of writers imitating, emulating, or responding to Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Edgar Allan Poe, and Flannery O’Connor.
4. **In-text icons** point to **ARIEL, the new Literature CD-ROM**, and an **expanded Online Learning Center (website)** for the book, offering featured author casebooks with biographies, quizzes, hyperlinked stories, discussion of film versions of stories and plays, writing assignments, and more.
5. Availability in soft and hard cover formats.

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**ARIEL (A Resource for the Interactive Exploration of Literature) CD-ROM:** ARIEL, McGraw-Hill English’s new fully interactive CD-ROM, is an exciting



new tool that introduces students to the pleasures of studying literature. The CD features nearly thirty casebooks on authors ranging from Sophocles to Rita Dove. Each casebook offers a rich array of resources, including hyperlinked texts, video and audio clips, critical essays, a biography, bibliography and webliography, essay questions, quizzes, and visuals. General resources include a robust glossary and numerous other resources.

**Online Learning Center ([www.mhhe.com/diyanni2](http://www.mhhe.com/diyanni2)):** This rich website offers twenty author casebooks; complete texts of selected classic works with embedded links to relevant sites; a linked Table of Contents; a linked timeline offering historical and cultural context for all anthologized works; author biographies; a complete glossary; literature-specific Web links; and interactive quizzes, Web exercises, and writing prompts offering students additional practice in literary response, interpretation, and evaluation.

**The Essay (0-07-249861-7):** *The Essay* serves those introduction to literature courses that cover this genre in addition to poetry, fiction, and drama. It is available separately or for a nominal charge when packaged with *Literature*.

**Other Trade Books:** A number of modern and classic works of fiction, nonfiction, and drama are available at a substantial discount when packaged with *Literature*:

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## ***Supplements for Instructors***

**Instructor's Manual (password-protected, and available for download at [www.mhhe.com/diyanni2](http://www.mhhe.com/diyanni2)):** This popular resource, authored by Thomas M. Kitts of St. John's University, has been thoroughly updated and revised for this new edition. The Manual offers brief introductions, additional questions, and essay topics for major selections, a comprehensive list of videos and DVDs suitable for classroom use, and much more.

**Videos and DVDs:** Please ask your McGraw-Hill sales representative about videos and DVDs available to adopters for free or at reduced rates.

**In Their Own Voices :A Century of Recorded Poetry (0-07-242404-4) :** This audio CD offers a collection of classic and contemporary poems in the voices of the poets who wrote them.

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Throughout its many editions, *Literature* has always reflected the cooperative efforts of many people, beginning with Steven Pensinger, legendary editor and publisher, whose vision inspired the book from the beginning. Steve's associates at Random House, where the book was initially published, and at McGraw-Hill, which afterward took over the revised editions of the book, always brought intelligence and enthusiasm to their collective work on the project. They continue to deserve my thanks for their help and their support.

For this edition, I received assistance beyond the call of duty from Senior Sponsoring Editor Alexis Walker and Development Editor Anne Stameshkin at McGraw-Hill. Alexis and Anne provided many valuable suggestions for adding new features and including new works in the contemporary selections of fiction, poetry, and drama. Alexis also provided her own stunning new translation of Kafka's "Metamorphosis." She deserves a special thank you for her outstanding contribution. I have also had the pleasure of working with former Executive Editor Sarah Touborg, Marketing Manager David S. Patterson; Project Manager Jean Hamilton; Designers Cassandra Chu, Kiera Cunningham, and Glenda King; Photo Researcher Alex Ambrose; Art Editor Cristin Yancey; Supplements Producer Mark Mattson, Production Supervisor Carol Bielski; Media Producer Todd Vaccaro; Permissions Editor Marty Granahan; and Freelance

Editors Joshua Feldman (coordinator of ARIEL and author of all new material for the Online Learning Center) and Mark Walker (who contributed a number of new author biographies).

I have also benefited from the suggestions of many colleagues around the country (and in Canada) who teach the introductory writing and literature course. The following reviewers provided thoughtful criticism and valuable suggestions for this edition of *Literature*:

**Judith R. Anderson**, Johnson & Wales University  
**Norman W. Bates**, Cochise College  
**Susan Brant**, College of the Canyons  
**Alison Cable**, North Carolina State University  
**Anne E. Carroll**, Wichita State University  
**Eileen S. Jankowski**, Chapman University  
**William H. Kazarian**, Hawaii Pacific University  
**Nancy Kennedy**, Edmonds Community College  
**Kathleen Lazarus**, Daytona Beach Community College  
**Kevin McGarvey**, Cumberland County College  
**Martha McGowan**, University of Massachusetts—Lowell  
**Wren Mills**, Western Kentucky University  
**Kathryn Mincey**, Morehead State University  
**Sean Nighbert**, St. Philip's College  
**David Salomon**, Black Hills State University  
**Margaret Whitt**, University of Denver

Reviewers of *Literature* in its previous editions gave me much good advice. For the first compact edition, thanks to the following:

**Francis B. Hanify**, Luzerne County Community College; **Keith Higginbotham**, Midlands Technical College; **Sally P. Wheeler**, DeKalb College; **Elaine L. Horne**, Manchester Community Technical College; **Simone Gers**, Pima County Community College; **George Kanieski**, Cuyahoga Community College; **E. Suzanne Owens**, Lorain County Community College; **Richard Courage**, Westchester Community College; **Peter Cortland**, Quinnipiac College.

The following instructors graciously responded to a survey on the compact edition of *Literature*.

**Randal Allred**, Brigham Young University Hawaii; **Lena Ampadu**, Towson University; **Sara Blake**, El Camino College; **Arnold Bradford**, Northern Virginia Community College; **Tamara Ponzio Brattoli**, Joliet Junior College; **Andrea Braun**, Webster University; **Amy Braziller**, Red Rocks Community College; **Bob Brien**, Madison Area Technical College; **Evelyn J. Burroughs**, MiraCosta College; **Donna Campbell**, Gonzaga University; **Jeffery Clymer**, Saint Louis University; **Sandy Cohen**, Albany State University; **William A. Cook**, University of La Verne; **Robert Courtright**, Catholic University of America; **Bryan P. Davis**, Georgia Southwestern State University; **Marilyn Davis**, Johnson & Wales University; **Michael DiRaimo**, Manchester Community College; **Michelle Dowd**, Chaffey College;

**Lynn Fauth**, Oxnard College; **Julie Fenlon**, Joliet Junior College; **Allison Fernley**, Salt Lake Community College; **John W. Ferstel**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; **David Fenimore**, University of Nevada Reno; **Margaret H. Freeman**, Los Angeles Valley College; **Marie Foley**, Santa Barbara City College; **Carole Ganim**, Miami University (Ohio); **Donna Gessell**, North Georgia College & State University; **David D. Glaub**, University of Wisconsin Parkside; **G. Gormley**, Community College of Rhode Island; **Christine Gray**, Community College of Baltimore County; **Anita Gorman**, Slippery Rock University; **Michael Hennessy**, Southwest Texas State University; **John Herbert Hall**, Antelope Valley College; **Anna C. Halligan**, Broome Community College; **Lila Harper**, Central Washington University; **John Hughes**, Valencia Community College; **Janice Hunter**, Valencia Community College; **Allston James**, Monterey Peninsula College; **Celine Kavalec-Miller**, Valencia Community College; **Jan Kitchell**, Red Rocks College; **Liz Kleinfeld**, Red Rocks Community College; **Tamara Kuzmenkov**, Tacoma Community College; **Jeanne Phoenix Laurel**, Niagara University; **P. Wesley Lundburg**, Fergus Falls Community College; **Patrick Madden**, Ohio University; **Martin Maner**, Wright State University; **Julia McGregor**, Inver Hills Community College; **Christine McMahon**, Montgomery College; **Douglas McMillan**, East Carolina University; **Patricia Menhart**, Broward Community College; **Shelley Mika**, University of Connecticut; **Andrew Miller**, Northern Kentucky University; **JoAnna S. Mink**, Minnesota State University; **Bryan Moore**, Arkansas State University; **Bill Murphy**, Florida International University; **Barbra Nightingale**, Broward Community College; **Marsha Nourse**, Dean College; **Kelly O'Connor-Salomon**, Black Hills State University; **Angela O'Donnell**, Loyola College; **Gary Pandolfi**, Quinnipiac University; **Rita Wade Perkins**, Camden County College; **Roxanna Pisiak**, State University of New York Morrisville; **Larry Prater**, South Texas Community College; **Charles Piltch**, John Jay College; **Robert E. Post**, Kalamazoo Valley Community College; **Kirk G. Rasmussen**, Utah Valley State College; **Mary Jo Rathke**, University of Wisconsin Stout; **Eric Reade**, Miami University Middletown; **Carla Rineer-Ritter**, Millersville University; **Nelson Ritschel**, Massachusetts Maritime Academy; **Doren Robbins**, Foothill College; **Jane Rose**, Georgia College & State University; **Linda Rosekrans**, State University of New York Cortland; **Tiffany Rousculp**, Salt Lake Community College; **Deborah Sarbin**, Clarion University; **Tracey Schwarze**, Christopher Newport University; **Robert Scott**, Ohio Northern University; **James W. Stick, Jr.**, Des Moines Area Community College; **Jack Swanson**, Cerritos College; **Tony Trigilio**, Columbia College Chicago; **Susan Trudeau**, University of Detroit Mercy; **Pamela Turley**, Community College of Allegheny County; **Joseph Ugoretz**, Borough of Manhattan Community College; **Greta Wagle**, City University of New York Hunter College; **Michele S. Ware**, North Carolina Central University; **Edward J. Whitelock**, Gordon College; **Thera Woodard**, Valencia Community College East; **Pat Young**, Western Illinois University; **Robyn Younkin**, Community College of Rhode Island; **David Zucker**, Quinnipiac University.

For the fifth edition of *Literature* (the full-sized text), thanks to the following:

**Michael Aaif**, University of Alabama; **Beverly Bailey**, Seminole Community College; **Rosemary Baker**, SUNY Morrisville; **Mary K. Bayer**, Grand Rapids Community College; **Mark Bernier**, Blinn College; **Aniko Constantine**, SUNY Alfred; **Jim Creel**, Alvin Community College; **Theresa M. Dickman**, Cumberland College; **Tina D. Eliopulos**, Community College of Southern Nevada; **Audley Hall**, Northwest Arkansas Community College; **Diane Hyer**, Truett-McConnell College; **Mary D. Jamieson**, Broward Community College; **Carol Jamison**, Armstrong Atlantic State University; **Thomas M. Kitts**, St. John's University; **Andrea Krause**, Hesston College; **Carol Swain Lewis**, Three Rivers Community College; **Steven Lynn**, University of South Carolina; **Patricia Menhart**, Broward Community College; **Paul Resnick**, Illinois Central College; **Katherine M. Restaino**, Fairleigh Dickinson University; **Denise Rogers**, University of Louisiana; **Jeff Schonberg**, Angelo State University.

I have had the additional pleasure of working with Professor Thomas M. Kitts of St. John's University. Professor Kitts has written a practical and graceful instructor's manual, which serves as a rich and rewarding source of practical and provocative classroom applications. Tom also provided the excellent questions for the stories in the anthology of fiction.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Mary, whose loving and steadfast assistance enabled me to complete this revision on schedule. She is a treasure beyond compare.

ROBERT DIYANNI

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