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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the Critical Insights Series: *Critical Insights: Survival*

Salem Press is proud to announce a new addition to the *Critical Insights Series: Critical Insights: Survival*. The theme of survival in literature has been the subject of hundreds of scholarly essays and books. Rarely, however, has it been dealt with in broad, general terms. The purpose of the essays in this volume is to try and deal with some of the questions surrounding the topic of survival while also adding to the number of essays that explore survival as an issue in various particular works.

Critical Insights titles are divided into four main sections. The **Introduction** contains “About This Author” by Editor, Robert C. Evans and “On Survival: The Survival Theme in Science Fiction” by Darren Harris-Fain. The **Critical Contexts** section features four essays that survey the critical conversation regarding the theme, explore its cultural and historical contexts, and offer close and comparative readings of key texts containing the theme.

- “Survival Psychology in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Barracoon*,” Robert C. Evans
- “The Survival Theme in Literature: An Overview,” Paul Bailey
- “An Evolution of Survival in American Short Fiction: Stories by Jack London, Ray Bradbury, Octavia E. Butler, and George Saunders,” Steve Gronert Ellerhoff
- “Survival (and Degeneration?) of the Fittest in Kipling’s ‘The Mark of the Beast’ and Stevenson’s *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*,” V. Britt Terry

Readers seeking a deeper understanding of the theme can then move on to other essays that explore it in depth through a variety of **Critical Readings** including:

- “The Apostle Paul as Odyssean Survivor,” Christopher Baker
- “Survival as a Theme in the Sequel to Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*,” Robert C. Evans
- “Surviving Dystopia: Octavia Butler and Margaret Atwood,” M. G. Gainer
- “Responses to Christopher McCandless in *Into the Wild*,” Bryan Warren

Each essay is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of “Works Cited,” along with endnotes. Finally, the volume’s appendixes offer useful reference resources, including: **Further Reading; Bibliography; About the Editor; Contributors;** and an **Index**.

The volume anticipates a diverse reading audience. It intends to support study of survival in within the classroom, but also reading apart from a structured teaching agenda, so that any member of the reading public may find it of use. For those in the classroom, both instructors and students, the volume provides a hearty resource in terms of novel titles, but also of discussion of related concepts and the sharing of a plethora of research materials, both print and electronic. Thus, its design will satisfy the needs of the scholar and the non-scholar, teachers, parents, and common readers. Its contributors have broad expertise in the topic, as evident in their brief biographies, and those familiar with research about young adult literature will recognize several contributor names as individuals who follow active writing and publishing agendas. Others bring the expertise of the classroom, both at the secondary and college levels, to bear on their analysis.

Readers will be introduced to concepts survival in literature by the first four essays, all of which focus on Critical Context through exploration of the background of survival, its critical reception, its view through a select critical lens, and via comparative analysis.

As the range of novels, poems, and memoirs discussed in this volume makes clear, survival is vast in both scope and variety. Survival has been a defining feature in the literature and society throughout history, and continues to expand as an increasingly substantial part of literary production and criticism in the United States.

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The Critical Insights series is an outstanding, in-depth scholarship by renowned literary critics; great starting point for students seeking an introduction to the theme and the critical discussions surrounding it.

Critical Insights: Survival

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