

Masterplots

REVISED SECOND EDITION

Edited by Frank N. Magill

“Since few reference titles enjoy the word-of-mouth reputation Masterplots boasts, students will ask for it just as sure as the sun rises in the east. Best to have this, the best Masterplots, available to them.”
—Wilson Library Bulletin

“Magill has produced a useful reference tool with the revised second edition of Masterplots...Ease of use, attractive format, concise entries, and breadth of coverage make this set extremely useful for high school and college libraries, but it would be a valuable purchase for public libraries as well.”
—American Reference Books Annual

“As with past editions, high-school and college students will find Masterplots a valuable tool, as will their teachers. The addition of the bibliographies will help students continue their exploration of an author or work. High school, public, and academic libraries will want to update their collections with this new edition.” —Booklist

Masterplots was the first book published by Salem Press in 1949 and is the original work of literary reference offering plot summaries. Salem pioneered this form of reference work. Since the original publication, the *Masterplots* concept has grown and changed with the times. From a collection of 500 plot summaries of world-famous novels, plays, poems and works of nonfiction, *Masterplots* has grown to include plot synopses, critical commentary, character profiles, literary settings and biographical profiles in more than 12,000 reference articles. The *Masterplots* family of reference works has become the starting point for doing research about a book or author, the way to refresh one's memory about a previously read book or a life of a previously studied author, the guide for

reading groups and the first choice of undergraduates and graduate students needing to review a term's worth of literary study.

CONTENT

Masterplots includes 1,801 essays covering both standard and recent classics of world literature. The 526 new critical evaluation sections have been added to the current edition with new story segments and new essay review segments. In total, there are 400 works of drama, 160 works of nonfiction, 880 novels, 110 novellas and short stories and 240 poems. *Masterplots* reflects major literary works from antiquity through the 1990's. About three-quarters of the material is from the 19th and 20th centuries.

FORMAT

Masterplots articles are designed to be efficient reference sources, providing essential facts about a work at a glance. Each article opens with ready-reference information: type of work, author, first publication date, and English translation date where applicable. Narrative works also receive type of plot, time of plot, locale, and principal characters.

Each of the 1,400 novels, plays and epics is treated in a synopsis article, which includes a summary of the plot followed by a critical evaluation discussing significant aspects of the work's artistry and history. A bibliography provides annotated citations to the best English-language sources for further research about the book. The 400 remaining titles, which include collections of poetry and short stories and works of nonfiction, are treated in essay-reviews, providing similar at-a-glance ready reference data, an analysis of the work, and a bibliography of the best sources for further research.

At a Glance

- ✓ 12 Volumes; 7,382 Pages
- ✓ 1,801 Essays
- ✓ Illustrations and Photographs
- ✓ Author Index
- ✓ Title Index
- ✓ Chronological Index
- ✓ Geographical Index

APRIL 1996

12 volumes; 7,382 pages
Photographs and illustrations
ISBN: 1-58765-084-7

LIST PRICE: \$630 (\$832 CAN)



Masterplots II Short Story Series

REVISED EDITION

Edited by Charles E. May
California State University, Long Beach

“When this arrives in the library, show it to all of the teachers, not just the subject specialists. Highly recommended.” —*Reference for Students*

“Recommended for public, high-school and undergraduate libraries; libraries already owning the previous set will want to update.” —*Booklist*

Masterplots II: Short Story Series provides penetrating discussions of the content, themes, structure and techniques of 1,490 stories from every inhabited region in the world: North America (the majority), Africa, Asia, West Indies, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and other European countries.

FORMAT

Ready reference top matter includes the title by which the story is best known, the author’s name (with years of birth and death), the type and time of the plot, the locale, principal characters and first-publication information. The essay text that follows provides a synopsis of in “The Story.” “Themes and Meanings” gives a critical discussion of the most important issues that the story raises and “Style and Technique” analyzes special writing techniques in the story, such as plot devices, imagery and characterization.

REFERENCE AIDS

Three appendices are found in Volume 8, a glossary with definitions of 135 terms in short-fiction criticism, a general annotated bibliography on the genre, followed by un-annotated bibliographies on the 75 most frequently studied authors in the set and a chronological list of titles. There are also four indexes: title, author, type of plot and geographical.

ABOUT THIS EDITION

This edition adds 250 articles to the previous edition, for a total of more than 20 percent entirely new material. None of the short stories that are subjects of new articles in this set is covered in any other *Masterplots* set. *Masterplots II: Short Story Series, Revised Edition* is the only *Masterplots* set that readers need consult for critical reviews of individual short stories. It is, without question, the most comprehensive available.

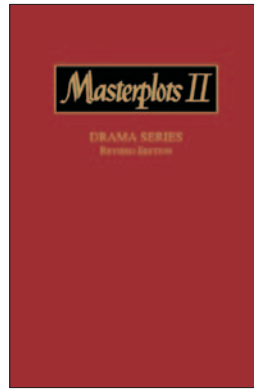
JANUARY 2004

Eight volumes; 5,300 pages
ISBN: 1-58765-140-8

LIST PRICE: \$499 (\$659 CAN)

ALSO OF INTEREST

Critical Survey of Short Fiction, Second Revised Edition (p.24); *Magill’s Choice, Short Story Writers* (p.28).



Masterplots II Drama Series

REVISED EDITION

Edited by Christian H. Moe
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

“This set is recommended for public, high school and college libraries; those that own the previous edition (or *Masterplots*) would be wise to invest in this update owing to its contemporary emphasis.”

—*Library Journal*

Masterplots II: Drama covers plays by important 20th century playwrights, such as Samuel Beckett, Arthur Miller, Eugene O’Neill, George Bernard Shaw, Neil Simon and Tennessee Williams, among others. Most of the plays covered in *Masterplots II: Drama Series* are English-language works, but the content has a worldwide scope. The set also covers 30 plays by women.

FORMAT

Each essay includes the author’s name and birth and death dates, the time and place of the work’s first performance and publication, the play’s setting and principal characters, with brief descriptions. The overview section includes a summary of the action and plot, insights into issues in the play, a description of plot devices, staging techniques and characterization, and a perspective on the critical context in which the play is viewed. “Sources for Further Study” offers bibliographical notes.

REFERENCE AIDS

Volume 4 includes a chronological list of titles, notable film and television adaptations of the plays and a list of all plays covered in *Masterplots, Revised Second Edition* (none of which is duplicated here). There are also a title index, an author index and a type of plot index.

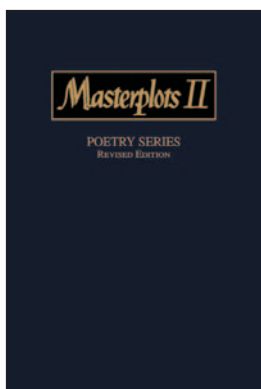
ABOUT THIS EDITION

This first revised edition of *Masterplots II: Drama Series* adds 92 plays never covered in any *Masterplots* series, for a total of 345 plays in a four-volume set. The new titles range from four plays produced before the 20th century to more than 20 plays first produced after 1990, including award-winning titles such as *Topdog/Underdog*, *Wit*, *Copenhagen*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Dinner with Friends* and *Three Tall Women*. The editors have striven to incorporate play titles most often studied and performed in North American secondary schools and colleges, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Harvey*, *Inherit the Wind* and *That Championship Season*.

SEPTEMBER 2003

Four volumes; 1,952 pages
ISBN: 1-58765-116-5

LIST PRICE \$404 (\$533 CAN)



Masterplots II Poetry Series

REVISED EDITION

Edited by Philip K. Jason
English Department, U.S. Naval Academy

"This edition, like all of the *Masterplots* series, is written in readable language best suited for high-school and undergraduate students. Poem analysis at the individual title level is difficult to come by. Recommended for public, school and academic collections..." —*Booklist*

The eight-volume *Masterplots II: Poetry Series* provides comprehensive coverage of the most commonly studied poems written or translated into English.

CONTENT

Each article begins with ready-reference information that includes the author's name and date of birth (and death, if applicable) and the date of the poem's first publication. Two sections that explore the work in depth follow a summary called "The Poem". "Forms and Devices" examines the poetic devices employed and explores such concepts as word choice, metaphor, structure, meter, rhyme, point of view, symbolism and other literary techniques. "Themes and Meanings" analyzes the main focus of the poetry and the poet's overriding concerns; this section often provides context by relating the work at hand to the poet's larger body of work.

FORMAT

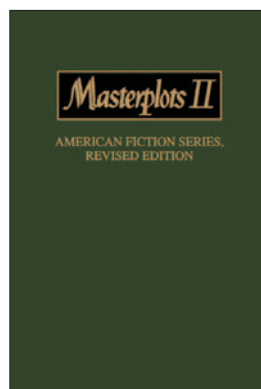
The articles in *Masterplots II: Poetry Series* are arranged alphabetically, by title. Three indexes at the end of Volume 8 are designed to assist the reader in selecting articles of interest. Volume 8 also offers a glossary of poetic terms and a bibliography, which has been thoroughly updated with the latest scholarship on poetry in general and major poets in particular.

ABOUT THIS EDITION

Of the 1,386 analytical essays, 271 are entirely new to this edition. The new essays address important poems by classic writers (Geoffrey Chaucer, John Milton, Anne Bradstreet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Robert Frost, William Butler Yeats, Lewis Carroll, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Walt Whitman, Wilfred Owen, Elizabeth Bishop, Allen Ginsberg) not previously included, as well as works by contemporary poets (Robert Bly, Gary Soto, Sharon Olds, Garrett Hongo, Maya Angelou, Adrienne Rich, Amiri Baraka, Margaret Atwood, N. Scott Momaday).

JANUARY 2002

Eight volumes; 4,650 pages
ISBN: 1-58765-037-1
LIST PRICE: \$499 (\$659 CAN)



Masterplots II American Fiction Series

REVISED EDITION

Edited by Steven G. Kellman
University of Texas at San Antonio

"...provide ideas for students looking for paper topics, a bibliography to get them started and help understanding difficult literature. Recommended for most college and public libraries." —*Library Journal*
"Recommended." —*Booklist*

Masterplots II: American Fiction Series includes 567 essays covering the most important works of fiction from the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

FORMAT

Each article begins with ready-reference information that presents the date of the author's birth (and death, if applicable), the type, time and locale of the work's plot and the date of the work's first publication. A brief description of the work's principal characters precedes a more extensive analysis. This analysis begins with a summary of the work's major plot elements and continues with separate sections that explore the work in depth. "The Characters" delves into the motivations and development of the individuals portrayed, "Themes and Meanings" examines the work's larger concerns, and "Critical Context" assesses the work's place in the American literary tradition and summarizes its reception. Each entry concludes with an annotated bibliography that directs readers to recent sources for further study.

REFERENCE AIDS

Volume 6 includes author, title, and geographical/ethnic indexes.

ABOUT THIS EDITION

The original four volumes of *Masterplots II, American Fiction Series* explored works by some of the most important writers of the Americas—North, Central and South. A two-volume supplement published in 1994 updated and extended the original series' coverage. The six volumes of *Masterplots II: American Fiction Series, Revised Edition* incorporate 439 entries from the previous editions and add a further 128 new entries on important works by contemporary or neglected writers. (To eliminate duplication, works covered in the twelve-volume set *Masterplots, Revised Second Edition* are not included here.) The annotated bibliographies attached to each article have also been revised and updated to reflect recent scholarship.

JANUARY 2000

Six volumes; 2,944 pages
ISBN: 0-89356-871-6
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