

Canadian Literature and Poetry in English

Literary Interpretation & Criticism

<p><i>Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature</i> <i>Atwood, Margaret</i></p> <p>Margaret Atwood's major contribution to Canadian literary criticism, intended as a handbook for secondary school teachers, was according recognized as the most influential work of Canadian criticism in the 1970s. It examines the themes of literary alienation from the environment, and the notion of a national obsession with Canadian "self-victimization."</p>	<p>PR9189.6 .A8 2012 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Revolutions: Essays on Contemporary Canadian Fiction</i> <i>Good, Alex</i></p> <p>A close analysis of the changes in Canadian fiction since the early twentieth century.</p> <p>Good examines the importance of Canadian literary prizes, government funding, and how specific authors (such as Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, and Mordecai Richler) have influenced the concept of what a "Canadian novel" is or should be.</p>	<p>PR9192.2 .G663 2017 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Inhabiting Memory in Canadian Literature</i> <i>Authers, Benjamin, et al.</i></p> <p>Examines the cultural work of space and memory in Canada and Canadian literature, and encourages readers to investigate Canada within its regional, national, and global contexts.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9180.1 .I54 2017 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Refuse: CanLit in Ruins</i> <i>Wunker, Erin, et al., editors</i></p> <p>Critical examination of English Canadian literature as a cultural formation and industry.</p> <p>The book provides a critical and historical context to help readers understand conversations happening about CanLit in the year 2018. Topics such as literary celebrity, white power, appropriation, class, rape culture, and the ongoing impact of settler colonialism are addressed by a</p>	<p>PR9184.3 .R33 2018 Stacks</p>

diverse gathering of writers from across Canada.	
<p><i>Land/Relations: Possibilities of Justice in Canadian Literature</i> <i>Kamboureli, Smaro and Larissa Lai, editors</i></p> <p>Critical examination of English Canadian literature as a cultural formation and industry. Twenty influential literary critics engage a variety of genres and literary forms (essay, life writing, testament, polemic, poetry) to explore the ways Canadian cultural production has been shaped by social and historical relations and can be given new and various forms to decolonize the institutions associated with the creation of this country's vision of Canadian literature.</p>	<p>PR9185.2 .L36 2023 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The Bush Garden</i> <i>Frye, Northrop</i></p> <p>The collection of essays by Northrop Frye may be read as a record of poetic production in English Canada during one of its crucial periods. He discusses the imaginative legacy bequeathed to present and future Canadian writers by the earlier novelists and poets.</p>	<p>PR9184.6 .F79 1995 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Mythologizing Canada: Essays on the Canadian Literary Imagination</i> <i>Frye, Northrop and Branko Gorjup, editor</i></p> <p>Eleven essays and addresses written by Northrop Frye between 1943 and 1989 that address the topic of the Canadian literary imagination.</p> <p>The essays are intended to illustrate Frye's insights into Canadian literature and reflect how his views changed over the course of his life.</p>	<p>PR9184.6 .F795 1997 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Northrop Frye's Canadian Literary Criticism and Its Influence</i> <i>Gorjup, Branko</i></p> <p>Examines the impact of Frye's criticism on Canadian literary scholarship as well as the response of Frye's peers to his articulation of a "Canadian" criticism.</p>	<p>PN75 .F7 N74 2009 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Luminous Ink: Writers on Writing in Canada</i> <i>McWatt, Tessa, et al., editors</i></p> <p>A collection of original pieces by some of Canada's best known writers. The essays ask, and attempt to answer, what it means to be a writer in Canada, what the literature of today can tell us about</p>	<p>PR9184.6 .L86 2018 Stacks</p>

<p>Canada's social arrangements, its political and aesthetic shapes, and its preoccupations.</p> <p>Contributors include Margaret Atwood, George Elliott Clarke, Camilla Gibb, Rawi Hage, Lawrence Hill, Greg Hollingshead, Lee Maracle, Lisa Moore, Michael Ondaatje, Marie-Helaine Poitras, Pascale Quiviger, Nino Ricci, Eden Robinson, Madeleine Thien, Judith Thompson, M.G. Vassanji, Rita Wong, and others.</p>	
<p><i>The Canadian Mind : Essays on Writers and Thinkers</i> Lamey, Andy</p> <p>A critical reading some of Canada's most prominent literary icons and intellectuals, including Margaret Atwood, John Metcalf, Dany Laferriere, Mavis Gallant, Charles Taylor, Will Kymlicka, Conrad Black, and others, analyzing what it means to read and write about Canada</p>	<p>PR9184.3 L36 2023 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Re: Reading the Postmodern: Canadian Literature and Criticism After Modernism</i> Stacey, Robert David</p>	<p>Available Online PR9189.6 .R36 2010 Stacks</p>
<p><i>From Cohen to Carson: The Poet's Novel in Canada</i> Rae, Ian</p> <p>Argues that Canadian poets have turned to the novel because of the limitations of the lyric, but have used lyric methods—puns, symbolism, repetition, juxtaposition—to create a mode of narrative that contrasts sharply with the descriptive conventions of realist and plot-driven novels.</p> <p>Detailed case studies of novels by Leonard Cohen, Michael Ondaatje, George Bowering, Daphne Marlatt, and Anne Carson, as well as sections on A.M. Klein and Anne Michaels.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9192.5 .R33 2008 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Canadian Graphic: Picturing Life Narratives</i> Rifkind, Candida et al.</p> <p>A collection of critical essays on contemporary Canadian cartoonists working in various forms of graphic life narrative, from confession to memoir to biography.</p>	<p>Available Online PN6714 .C36 2016 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Divided Highways: Road Narrative and Nationhood in Canada</i> Macfarlane, Heather</p>	<p>PR9185.5 .T73 M33 2019 Stacks</p>

Establishes the existence of a road trip genre in the literatures of Canada, examining works by a variety of Anglophone, Québécois and Indigenous writers, including Gilles Archambault, Jeannette Armstrong, Jill Frayne, Tomson Highway, Linda Hogan, Scott Gardiner, Claude Jasmin, Robert Kroetsch, Lee Maracle, Jacques Poulin, Aritha van Herk and Paul Villeneuve.	
<p><i>New Contexts of Canadian Criticism</i> <i>Heble, Ajay, et.al., editors</i></p> <p>Following Eli Mandel's important collection of essays <i>Contexts of Canadian Criticism</i> (1971), this work examines the major themes of Canadian literary criticism in the 1990s.</p> <p>The contributors are a mix of well-known writers, poets and academics whose reprinted articles are assembled here from a wide variety of sources.</p>	<p>PR9184.3 .N482 1997 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The Canadian Imagination: Dimensions of a Literary Culture</i> <i>Staines, David, editor</i></p> <p>Discusses French-Canadian literature, surveys of Canadian fiction, poetry and drama, as well as individual authors such as Atwood, Laurence, Leacock, Pratt and more.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9184.6 .C35 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Butterfly on Rock: A Study of Themes and Images in Canadian Literature</i> <i>Jones, D.G.</i></p> <p>Analyzes archetypal, nationalist themes across Canadian literature, in the tradition of Northrop Frye.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9184.3 .J66 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Cultural Identities in Canadian Literature</i> <i>Mauguière, Bénédicte</i></p> <p>A bilingual collection of essays on the themes of cultural identities and immigrant writing in Canada. The emphasis is upon diversity as essays range in subject matter from Margaret Atwood, Margaret Laurence, and Marie-Claire Blais to Danny Laferrière, Ukranian-Canadian plays, "Franglo-théâtre," contemporary Acadian and Africadian poetry and the Ontario Protestant novel.</p>	<p>PR9185.2 .C85 1998 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The World of Canadian Writing: Critiques and Recollections</i> <i>Woodcock, George</i></p>	<p>PR9189.6 .W66 Stacks</p>

A collection of essays on contemporary Canadian fiction, poetry and criticism.	
<i>Kicking Against the Pricks</i> <i>Metcalf, John</i> Prominent and contentious criticism of the “literary nationalism” conceptualized in the previous decade, characterized by quest for distinct Canadian themes and traditions in literature and poetry.	PR9199.3 .M47 Z466 1982 Stacks
<i>Volleys</i> <i>Solecki, Sam, John Metcalf, and W.J. Keith</i> Discussion of several highly controversial issues in criticism of the Canadian tradition in literature.	PR9184.6 .S64 1990 Stacks

Major Journal Indexes

<i>Canadian Literary Centre</i> A collection of reference books and journals with a focus on Canadian fiction and poetry. This database contains full text content from individual monographs, biographies, essays and literary fiction. Especially useful for work on lesser known or recently published writers.	Available Online
<i>Canadian Periodical Index (CPI.Q)</i> A major periodical database for researching Canadian topics, including literature. The content consists of both scholarly journals and popular sources, such as magazines and newspapers, published between 1980 to present.	Available Online
<i>Canadian Business and Current Affairs (CBCA) Complete</i> Indexes scholarly journals as well as popular magazines and newspapers on numerous topics and disciplines, including literature. The majority of the included publications are Canadian.	Available Online
<i>MLA International Bibliography</i> The index is compiled by the Modern Language Association (MLA), an organization dedicated to the study and teaching of language and literature. Includes book chapters, journal articles, and Web	Available Online

Canadian Literature and Poetry in English

Published on E.J. Pratt Library (<https://library.vicu.utoronto.ca>)

sites related to literature from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Publications on literary theory and criticism, dramatic arts (film, radio, television, theatre), and folklore can also be found in the index.	
<i>Annual Bibliography of English Language Literature (ABELL)</i> Includes Canadian authors and poets.	Available Online

reviewed & updated 8 August 2024 | **compiled by** Agatha Barc

Last updated: August 8, 2024

Source URL: https://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/research_resources/subject_course_guides/canadian_literature_fiction_criticism