

American And British Poetry: A Guide To The Criticism

"OUR MOST VALUABLE CRITIC" (BOSTON GLOBE) PRESENTS HIS
PERSONAL SELECTION, WITH COMMENTARY, OF THE FINEST
POEMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

This comprehensive anthology offers renowned critic Harold Bloom's choice of the best of six centuries of great British and American poetry, selected in accordance with his three absolute criteria: aesthetic splendor, intellectual power, and wisdom. In Bloom's introductory essay "The Art of Reading Poetry," he presents his critical reflections of more than a half century devoted to reading, teaching, and writing about great verse, the literary achievement he loves most. Throughout this volume, Bloom includes extensive introductions to each poet and to many of the individual poems. More than any other anthology, this book provides readers who desire the pleasures of sublime art with nearly everything they need in a single volume.

"Aesthetic, moral, and intellectual judgments are superbly blended to produce a volume uncommonly valuable to all who appreciate poetry. . . . This superb anthology will ensure Bloom's role in the process for a long time and will, I hope, inspire others to walk in his formidable footsteps." —Martin Rubin, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"To read Bloom's insights here is to bask in the emanation of genius. As entertaining and erudite as his choices of the works he most loves are, the book's overriding strength is the guidance it gives, in context and comprehension." —*Baltimore Sun*



HAROLD BLOOM is Sterling Professor of the Humanities at Yale University. He has published more than thirty books, has been the editor of a myriad of others, and has received numerous awards and honorary degrees, including the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal for Belles Lettres and Criticism. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut, and New York City.

HARPER PERENNIAL
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Cover design by Robin Bilardello
Author photograph by Sue Graham Mingus

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Poetry

ISBN 978-0-06-054042-5



USA \$19.95 Canada 24.95

American and British Poetry: A Guide to the Criticism, Front Cover. Manchester University Press, Jan 1, - American poetry - pages. Alexander, Harriet Simmes, comp American and British poetry: a guide to the criticism, Athens: Swallow, Z P7A44 Baker, Jeffrey A An. MAPS is a forum for the study of modern American poetry. Poetry Portal American and British Poetry: A Guide to the Criticism 2v. Literary Criticism via General / Multi-Disciplinary databases. JSTOR Unlike MLA, ABELL focuses exclusively on British, American, and. Second, you can consult surveys of poetry criticism on multiple authors. Typically A two-volume guide to criticism of American and British poetry. Coverage for. terly Guide to Periodical Literature in the. Social Sciences ENGLISH. American and British scholars. Slow in lication. Volume covering appear. Literature, Literary Analysis & Criticism American & English Literature Searches English Poetry , African-American Poetry , American. A bio-bibliographical guide to current writers in fiction, non-fiction, poetry . Indexes criticisms of British and American poetry from early times to. This guide addresses the need for literary criticism for beginning literary critics. American and British Poetry: A Guide to the Criticism. T Alexander, Harriet S. American and British Poetry: A Guide to the Criticism, Athens, Ohio: Swallow Press, ZP7 A44 This work. A Guide to the Criticism, Harriet Semmes Alexander "Some Techniques of Fiction in Poetry," Essays in Criticism 4(4), October , Cambridge History of English Poetry Articles: Literary Criticism (article databases for locating literary criticism) Guide to American Poetry Explication. Find Literary Criticism for a Writer's Works Guide to American Poetry Explication Poetry Explication: a checklist of interpretation since of British and. For example, if you were looking for literary criticism on African American writers, American and British Poetry: A Guide to the Criticism - Z P7 A44 If you find good guides to critical sites that we have missed, please let us know by authors from North America, the British Isles, and the former British Empire. Shmoop provides easy to understand, fun study guides for literature, poetry, and .

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