

Social Issues in Literature

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Imagine studying Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* without discussing the critical role racism plays in that novel. Picture an examination of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* that does not address class conflict. Many of the world's most-studied works of literature are deeply entwined with a significant social issue, and viewing such works through the lens of that issue enriches and broadens a reader's understanding. To help students navigate the intersection between literature and sociology, Greenhaven Press introduces *Social Issues in Literature*, a vibrant new series that supports cross-curricular studies of the world's enduring literary masterworks.

Representing a variety of perspectives, each book in the series addresses the role a given social issue plays in an author's major work or body of work. The three-chapter format begins with biographical and critical information about the author, providing a broad overview of the author's influences, life experiences, and literary career. Critical perspectives follow, offering a multi-faceted analysis of the relationship between the work and the social issue it explores. The final chapter examines the social issue from a contemporary perspective, assessing its significance in society today. Each book also includes:

- A timeline of the author's life
- "Further Reading" section that suggests other works on the social issue
- Bibliography of books, periodicals, and web sites on the social issue
- Thorough subject index

Perfect for high school students, future volumes in the series will explore alcoholism (Tennessee Williams), censorship (Ray Bradbury), civil rights (James Baldwin, Frederick Douglass), class conflict (Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, E. Annie Proulx), death (Emily Dickinson, Ernest Hemingway), violence (William Faulkner, Joseph Heller), domestic violence (Alice Walker, Anne Tyler), the environment (Rachel Carson, Kurt Vonnegut), homosexuality (James Baldwin, Walt Whitman), depression (Sylvia Plath, J.D. Salinger) and many other issues.

Grades: 10-12
Book Size: 6"x9"
Page Count: 160-224

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