

orphan of british lit

orphan of british lit is a powerful and recurring motif in the history of British literature, shaping the narratives of countless canonical and lesser-known works. From the haunting loneliness of *Jane Eyre* to the resilience of *Oliver Twist*, orphans have served as central figures who drive plot development, reveal the complexities of society, and evoke empathy in readers. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the orphan archetype in British literature, tracing its origins, examining its evolution through different literary periods, and analyzing its symbolic meanings. Readers will discover how the portrayal of orphans reflects changing attitudes toward family, morality, and social class, and why these characters remain so compelling. The article also highlights notable orphan characters, investigates their impact on literary themes, and discusses the lasting legacy of the orphan motif in modern literature.

- Understanding the Orphan Archetype in British Literature
- Historical Origins and Development
- Iconic Orphan Characters in British Literature
- Symbolic Meanings and Literary Themes
- Societal and Cultural Reflections
- Modern Interpretations and Legacy
- Conclusion

Understanding the Orphan Archetype in British Literature

The orphan of British lit is more than a character lacking parents; it is a literary archetype that encapsulates vulnerability, isolation, and the search for identity. Orphans often function as outsiders, allowing authors to critique social norms and explore themes of belonging, resilience, and transformation. In British literature, the orphan motif has been a versatile tool for writers, appearing in genres ranging from the Gothic novel to Victorian realism and even contemporary fiction. The frequent depiction of orphans reflects the historical significance of family and inheritance in British society, as well as anxieties about social mobility and moral development. This section introduces the orphan archetype and examines its enduring appeal in literary tradition.

Historical Origins and Development

The presence of orphans in British literature can be traced back to early storytelling traditions, where heroes often lacked parental support and relied on their ingenuity to survive. In medieval romances and folktales, orphans symbolized both vulnerability and potential for greatness. By the

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Industrial Revolution and changing social structures led to increased visibility of orphaned children, both in real life and fiction. The Victorian era, in particular, saw an explosion of orphan characters, reflecting societal concerns about poverty, child welfare, and the role of charity. The literary orphan evolved from a mere plot device to a complex figure embodying psychological depth and social commentary.

Medieval and Early Modern Depictions

Medieval British literature often featured orphaned protagonists in quests or adventures, emphasizing themes of destiny and virtue. Shakespeare's works occasionally included orphans, such as Edgar in "King Lear," whose lack of familial protection exposed him to hardship and growth.

Victorian Era and Social Reform

During the Victorian era, British novels frequently centered on orphans as a reflection of societal anxieties. Authors like Charles Dickens and Charlotte Brontë used orphan characters to critique the failures of institutions and the harsh realities faced by vulnerable children. The orphan became a symbol of both innocence and resilience, inspiring readers to question social inequalities and the role of compassion.

Iconic Orphan Characters in British Literature

British literature is replete with memorable orphan characters who have left an indelible mark on readers and literary history. These figures often serve as the emotional core of their narratives, navigating adversity and seeking acceptance in a world that challenges their sense of belonging. The following list highlights some of the most iconic orphans in British lit, each representing different facets of the archetype:

- **Oliver Twist** - Charles Dickens' emblematic orphan, whose journey through the harsh underbelly of Victorian London exposes social injustice and the need for reform.
- **Jane Eyre** - The resilient heroine of Charlotte Brontë's novel, whose orphanhood shapes her quest for independence, love, and self-worth.
- **Heathcliff** - The mysterious foundling in Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights," whose ambiguous origins fuel his passionate and destructive nature.
- **Harry Potter** - J.K. Rowling's modern orphan protagonist, whose status as an outsider drives the fantasy series' exploration of identity, destiny, and friendship.
- **Pip** - The central figure in Dickens' "Great Expectations," whose orphan status influences his aspirations and interactions with society.

Character Traits and Roles

Orphan characters in British literature are often portrayed as resourceful, empathetic, and determined. Their outsider status allows them to challenge conventions, while their personal struggles resonate with universal themes of loss, hope, and transformation. These characters frequently undergo significant development, serving as vehicles for moral and philosophical inquiry.

Symbolic Meanings and Literary Themes

The orphan of British lit carries rich symbolic meanings and is central to many enduring literary themes. Orphans represent both the fragility of human existence and the potential for growth against adversity. Their narratives often revolve around struggles with identity, the search for belonging, and the tension between fate and free will. In many works, the orphan's journey mirrors broader social or spiritual quests, allowing authors to explore themes of redemption, justice, and the power of compassion.

Loss and Identity

Orphan characters frequently grapple with questions of identity and self-definition, shaped by their experiences of loss and abandonment. Their journeys often involve seeking family, community, or a sense of purpose, highlighting the universal need for connection.

Social Critique and Reform

Through the lens of the orphan, British literature has addressed critical social issues, such as poverty, class disparities, and institutional failings. The hardships faced by orphans serve as a call to action, motivating readers to consider the role of charity, education, and government in improving lives.

Transformation and Growth

Orphan protagonists often undergo profound personal transformation, overcoming adversity and discovering inner strength. Their stories inspire hope and demonstrate the capacity for resilience, making them enduring symbols of possibility in British literature.

Societal and Cultural Reflections

The depiction of orphans in British literature offers valuable insight into historical and cultural attitudes toward family, childhood, and social responsibility. The prominence of orphan narratives during the Victorian period reflected anxieties about urbanization, child labor, and the breakdown of traditional family structures. Literary orphans have also contributed to evolving discussions about adoption, inheritance, and the meaning of kinship. By portraying orphans as both victims and survivors, British authors have shaped public perceptions of vulnerable populations and influenced policy

debates on child welfare.

Influence on Social Policy

Fictional representations of orphans helped raise awareness of real-world issues, inspiring philanthropy and reform. The popularity of Dickens' works, for example, contributed to the establishment of charitable organizations and legislative changes aimed at protecting children.

Changing Notions of Family

Orphan narratives have challenged and expanded traditional notions of family, suggesting that love, loyalty, and support can transcend blood relations. This theme continues to resonate in modern literature and society, reflecting ongoing debates about family structure and social inclusion.

Modern Interpretations and Legacy

Contemporary British literature continues to engage with the orphan archetype, adapting its themes for new audiences and contexts. Modern works often reinterpret traditional orphan stories, exploring issues such as identity, diversity, and trauma in innovative ways. The enduring popularity of orphan protagonists, from Harry Potter to Lyra Belacqua in Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials," demonstrates the lasting appeal of these characters. The orphan of British lit remains a potent symbol, inspiring writers to address complex personal and social questions through compelling narrative forms.

Orphans in Young Adult and Fantasy Fiction

The orphan motif has flourished in young adult and fantasy genres, where protagonists' outsider status fuels their adventures and growth. These stories continue to explore themes of belonging, courage, and transformation, engaging new generations of readers.

Legacy in Popular Culture

Iconic orphan characters have transcended literature, influencing film, television, and other media. Their stories continue to shape cultural attitudes and inspire empathy for those facing adversity.

Conclusion

The orphan of British lit stands as a compelling and multifaceted figure, bridging personal struggles with wider social and philosophical themes. From medieval legend to contemporary fantasy, orphans have played a central role in British storytelling, challenging conventions and reflecting evolving cultural values. Their journeys of loss, resilience, and transformation continue to captivate readers and influence the development of literature and

society.

Q: What is the significance of the orphan archetype in British literature?

A: The orphan archetype in British literature is significant because it encapsulates themes of vulnerability, resilience, and social critique. Orphans often serve as outsiders, allowing authors to explore issues of identity, belonging, and morality while highlighting societal flaws and the need for reform.

Q: Which British literary works feature iconic orphan characters?

A: Notable British literary works featuring iconic orphan characters include "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens, "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë, "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Brontë, "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens, and the "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling.

Q: How did the Victorian era influence the portrayal of orphans in literature?

A: The Victorian era greatly influenced the portrayal of orphans in literature by making them central figures in novels that addressed social issues such as poverty, child labor, and institutional reform. Orphan characters became symbols of innocence and resilience, often used to inspire empathy and motivate change.

Q: What common themes are associated with orphan characters in British lit?

A: Common themes associated with orphan characters in British literature include loss and abandonment, the search for identity and family, personal growth, social inequality, and the critique of societal institutions.

Q: Why do orphan protagonists appeal to readers?

A: Orphan protagonists appeal to readers because they embody the universal struggles of isolation, adversity, and the quest for belonging. Their journeys inspire empathy and hope, making their stories emotionally resonant and relatable.

Q: How have modern authors reinterpreted the orphan motif?

A: Modern authors have reinterpreted the orphan motif by exploring issues such as trauma, diversity, and agency in contemporary contexts. The motif remains relevant in young adult and fantasy fiction, where orphaned heroes often face unique challenges and opportunities for growth.

Q: What impact did orphan narratives have on British social policy?

A: Orphan narratives helped raise public awareness about the plight of vulnerable children, influencing the development of charitable organizations and reforms aimed at improving child welfare in Britain.

Q: Can the orphan archetype be found in genres outside of traditional novels?

A: Yes, the orphan archetype appears in a variety of genres, including Gothic literature, fantasy, young adult fiction, and even plays, demonstrating its versatility and enduring appeal.

Q: What symbolic meanings do orphans carry in British literature?

A: Orphans symbolically represent loss, isolation, and the potential for transformation. They often embody broader themes of redemption, justice, and the search for belonging, serving as powerful vehicles for exploring human and societal complexities.

Q: How do orphan stories challenge traditional notions of family?

A: Orphan stories challenge traditional notions of family by emphasizing the importance of chosen relationships, loyalty, and support beyond blood ties. They encourage readers to consider alternative forms of kinship and community.

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The Orphan of British Literature: Uncovering the Hidden Gems

The term "orphan of British literature" might not immediately conjure a specific image, but it hints at a fascinating realm of neglected masterpieces and forgotten authors. This isn't about books literally without parents; instead, it refers to works that, for various reasons, have fallen out of the mainstream literary canon, despite possessing considerable merit. This post delves into the reasons

behind this literary orphanhood, explores some examples, and ultimately, argues for a rediscovery of these overlooked treasures. We'll uncover the stories behind their neglect and highlight why these works deserve a place on your reading list.

Why are Some Works Considered "Orphans" of British Literature?

Several factors contribute to a work becoming an "orphan" of British literature. These aren't always straightforward, and often a combination of circumstances leads to a book's obscurity.

Shifting Literary Tastes and Trends:

Literary tastes are notoriously fickle. What's celebrated one decade may be forgotten the next. The rise and fall of literary movements – from Romanticism to Modernism and beyond – inevitably leave some authors and their works behind. A style that was once groundbreaking can become dated, and a writer's contemporaries may overshadow later generations' appreciation.

The Impact of Publishing Houses and Marketing:

The publishing industry plays a crucial role in a book's success. A lack of effective marketing, poor publishing decisions, or even the misfortune of being published by a small, now-defunct press can significantly impact a work's reach and longevity. The power of influential critics and reviewers also plays a pivotal part; a negative review from a prominent figure can greatly hinder a book's chances.

Social and Political Context:

The socio-political climate can deeply influence a book's reception. Works addressing controversial themes or challenging prevailing ideologies may face censorship or simply be ignored. Furthermore, a writer's personal life and circumstances, particularly if shrouded in scandal or controversy, can negatively impact their literary legacy.

The Problem of Canon Formation:

The very process of establishing a literary canon is inherently selective and often subjective. The works chosen to represent the "best" of British literature are frequently based on prevailing critical opinions and historical biases, inevitably leaving many deserving works on the sidelines. This process can unintentionally perpetuate inequalities and overlook voices from marginalized communities.

Examples of "Orphans" in British Literature:

Pinpointing specific "orphans" is subjective, but several authors and works readily come to mind:

Early Women Writers: Many female authors of the 18th and 19th centuries, whose works were once

highly popular, have been largely forgotten. Their writing was often overlooked due to prevailing patriarchal attitudes within the literary establishment.

Authors from Marginalized Communities: Similarly, writers from ethnic minorities or working-class backgrounds often faced significant barriers to publication and recognition, leading to their exclusion from the mainstream canon. Their unique perspectives and experiences were often overlooked, contributing to their "orphan" status.

Genre Fiction: Works of genre fiction, particularly early examples of science fiction, fantasy, or detective novels, were often considered less "literary" and therefore less worthy of academic study or widespread recognition.

Experimental or Avant-Garde Works: Authors who pushed the boundaries of literary conventions might find their work too challenging for a wider audience, leading to limited success and subsequent neglect.

Rediscovering the Lost Treasures:

The term "orphan" shouldn't be a label of permanent neglect. These works represent a rich tapestry of literary history and offer valuable insights into the past. We need to actively seek them out, re-evaluate them through a modern lens, and ensure that these voices are heard.

The Role of Academic Research and Re-evaluation:

Scholars and critics have a responsibility to identify and reassess overlooked works, contextualizing them within their historical and social settings. This process can lead to a renewed appreciation for these forgotten masterpieces.

The Power of Independent Publishing and Digital Platforms:

Independent publishers and digital platforms offer valuable opportunities to bring these works to a new audience, bypassing the gatekeepers of the traditional publishing industry.

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Literature:

A conscious effort to promote diversity and inclusion in literature is crucial. This involves actively seeking out and celebrating the works of authors from marginalized communities and ensuring that their voices are represented in the literary canon.

Conclusion:

The "orphans" of British literature represent a vast and largely untapped reservoir of talent and creativity. By understanding the factors that contributed to their neglect and actively engaging in

their rediscovery, we can enrich our understanding of literary history and appreciate the diverse range of voices that have shaped it. These works deserve to be read, studied, and celebrated, ensuring their rightful place in the rich tapestry of British literature.

FAQs:

1. Are there specific databases or online resources dedicated to rediscovering forgotten British authors? While no single comprehensive database exists, projects like the Victorian Women Writers Project and various university archives are invaluable resources. Searching online using keywords like "forgotten British authors" or "neglected British literature" can also yield significant results.
2. How can I contribute to the rediscovery of these lost works? You can support independent publishers who focus on neglected authors, write reviews and blog posts about these works, and engage in discussions about them online. Promoting diversity in your reading habits is also a significant contribution.
3. What makes a work an "orphan" versus simply a less popular book? The key difference lies in the potential merit of the work. A less popular book may simply not resonate with many readers, while an "orphan" is a work possessing significant literary or historical value that has been unjustly overlooked.
4. Are there specific periods in British literary history that produced a disproportionate number of "orphans"? The Victorian era, with its prolific output and vast social changes, stands out as a period where many deserving works might have been lost to time.
5. How does the concept of "orphan" literature relate to contemporary issues of representation and diversity? The concept highlights the historical biases embedded within the literary canon, underscoring the need for more inclusive approaches to literary scholarship and publishing. Recognizing and celebrating "orphan" literature is a crucial step towards achieving greater diversity and equity in literature.

orphan of british lit: The Orphan in Eighteenth-Century Law and Literature Cheryl L. Nixon, 2016-02-17 Cheryl Nixon's book is the first to connect the eighteenth-century fictional orphan and factual orphan, emphasizing the legal concepts of estate, blood, and body. Examining novels by authors such as Eliza Haywood, Tobias Smollett, and Elizabeth Inchbald, and referencing never-before analyzed case records, Nixon reconstructs the narratives of real orphans in the British parliamentary, equity, and common law courts and compares them to the narratives of fictional orphans. The orphan's uncertain economic, familial, and bodily status creates opportunities to plot his or her future according to new ideologies of the social individual. Nixon demonstrates that the orphan encourages both fact and fiction to re-imagine structures of estate (property and inheritance), blood (familial origins and marriage), and body (gender and class mobility). Whereas studies of the orphan typically emphasize the poor urban foundling, Nixon focuses on the orphaned heir or heiress and his or her need to be situated in a domestic space. Arguing that the eighteenth century constructs the valued orphan, Nixon shows how the wealthy orphan became associated with new understandings of the individual. New archival research encompassing print and manuscript records from Parliament, Chancery, Exchequer, and King's Bench demonstrate the law's interest in

the propertied orphan. The novel uses this figure to question the formulaic structures of narrative sub-genres such as the picaresque and romance and ultimately encourage the hybridization of such plots. As Nixon traces the orphan's contribution to the developing novel and developing ideology of the individual, she shows how the orphan creates factual and fictional understandings of class, family, and gender.

orphan of british lit: *The Orphan in Fiction and Comics since the 19th Century* Marion Gymnich, Barbara Puschmann-Nalenz, Gerold Sedlmayr, 2018-07-27 The orphan has turned out to be an extraordinarily versatile literary figure. By juxtaposing diverse fictional representations of orphans, this volume sheds light on the development of cultural concepts such as childhood, family, the status of parental legacy, individualism, identity and charity. The first chapter argues that the figure of the orphan was suitable for negotiating a remarkable range of cultural anxieties and discourses in novels from the Victorian period. This is followed by a discussion of both the (rare) examples of novels from the first half of the 20th century in which main characters are orphaned at a young age and Anglophone narratives written from the 1980s onward, when the figure of the orphan proliferated once more. The trope of the picaresque, the theme of absence and the problem of parental substitutes are among the issues addressed in contemporary orphan narratives. The book also looks at the orphan motif in three popular fantasy series, namely Rowling's Harry Potter septology, Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy and Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire series. It then traces the development of the orphan motif from the end of the 19th century to the present in a range of different types of comics, including funnies and gag-a-day strips, superhero comics, underground comix, and autobiographical comics.

orphan of british lit: British Literature: A Historical Overview, Volume B Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2010-06-14 In all six of its volumes The Broadview Anthology of British Literature presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials. Innovative, authoritative and comprehensive, The Broadview Anthology of British Literature has established itself as a leader in the field. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. These two volumes provide an overview of British literature in its social and historical context from the Anglo-Saxon period through to the twenty-first century. They trace literary developments in all genres, and touch as well on key developments in the history of the language and the history of print culture. And they provide essential historical background for those unfamiliar with the unfolding of British political, social, economic, and cultural history during each of the six periods into which the study of British literature is commonly divided (The Medieval Period, The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century, The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century, The Age of Romanticism, The Victorian Era, The Twentieth Century and Beyond). Included are a wide variety of illustrations, including 24 pages of color plates in each volume. The material for British Literature: A Historical Overview has been drawn from the general introductions to the six volumes of the acclaimed Broadview Anthology of British Literature. A Historical Overview, Volume B is also available; this covers the age of Romanticism through the twentieth century and beyond.

orphan of british lit: The Forgotten Home Child Genevieve Graham, 2024-09-24 The Home for Unwanted Girls meets Orphan Train in this unforgettable novel about a young girl caught in a

scheme to rid England's streets of destitute children, and the lengths she will go to find her way home—based on the true story of the British Home Children. 2018 At ninety-seven years old, Winnifred Ellis knows she doesn't have much time left, and it is almost a relief to realize that once she is gone, the truth about her shameful past will die with her. But when her great-grandson Jamie, the spitting image of her dear late husband, asks about his family tree, Winnifred can't lie any longer, even if it means breaking a promise she made so long ago... 1936 Fifteen-year-old Winny has never known a real home. After running away from an abusive stepfather, she falls in with Mary, Jack, and their ragtag group of friends roaming the streets of Liverpool. When the children are caught stealing food, Winny and Mary are left in Dr. Barnardo's Barkingside Home for Girls, a local home for orphans and forgotten children found in the city's slums. At Barkingside, Winny learns she will soon join other boys and girls in a faraway place called Canada, where families and better lives await them. But Winny's hopes are dashed when she is separated from her friends and sent to live with a family that has no use for another daughter. Instead, they have paid for an indentured servant to work on their farm. Faced with this harsh new reality, Winny clings to the belief that she will someday find her friends again. Inspired by true events, *The Forgotten Home Child* is a moving and heartbreaking novel about place, belonging, and family—the one we make for ourselves and its enduring power to draw us home.

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studies for exploring issues of gender and space within larger fields, such as an author's oeuvre or a discourse.

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orphan of british lit: Ancestry and Narrative in Nineteenth-Century British Literature Sophie Gilmartin, 1998 This 1999 study explores the importance of ideas and narratives of ancestry and kinship in constructing Victorian identity.

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: One-Volume Compact Edition Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Roy Liuzza, Jerome McGann, Anne Prescott, Barry Qualls, Claire Waters, 2015-04-20 In all six of its volumes The Broadview Anthology of British Literature presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials. Innovative, authoritative and comprehensive, The Broadview Anthology of

British Literature has established itself as a leader in the field. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. For those seeking an even more streamlined anthology than the two-volume Concise Edition, The Broadview Anthology of British Literature is now available in a compact single-volume version. The edition features the same high quality of introductions, annotations, contextual materials, and illustrations found in the full anthology, and it complements an ample offering of canonical works with a vibrant selection of less-canonical pieces. The compact single-volume edition also includes a substantial website component, providing for much greater flexibility. An increasing number of works from the full six-volume anthology (or from its website component) are also being made available in stand-alone Broadview Anthology of British Literature editions that can be bundled with the anthology.

orphan of british lit: *Refugee Nuns, the French Revolution, and British Literature and Culture* Tonya J. Moutray, 2016-03-22 In eighteenth-century literature, negative representations of Catholic nuns and convents were pervasive. Yet, during the politico-religious crises initiated by the French Revolution, a striking literary shift took place as British writers championed the cause of nuns, lauded their socially relevant work, and addressed the attraction of the convent for British women. Interactions with Catholic religious, including priests and nuns, Tonya J Moutray argues, motivated writers, including Hester Thrale Piozzi, Helen Maria Williams, and Charlotte Smith, to reevaluate the historical and contemporary utility of religious refugees. Beyond an analysis of literary texts, Moutray's study also examines nuns' personal and collective narratives, as well as news coverage of their arrival to England, enabling a nuanced investigation of a range of issues, including nuns' displacement and imprisonment in France, their rhetorical and practical strategies to resist authorities, representations of refugee migration to and resettlement in England, relationships with benefactors and locals, and the legal status of English nuns and convents in England, including their work in recruitment and education. Moutray shows how writers and the media negotiated the multivalent figure of the nun during the 1790s, shaping British perceptions of nuns and convents during a time critical to their survival.

orphan of british lit: *The Publishers' Circular and General Record of British Literature* , 1859

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume B – Third Edition Joseph Black et al., 2021-08-03 The two-volume Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition provides an attractive alternative to the full six-volume anthology. Though much more compact, the Concise Edition nevertheless provides substantial choice, offering both a strong selection of canonical authors and a sampling of lesser-known works. With an unparalleled selection of illustrations and of contextual materials, accessible and engaging introductions, and full explanatory annotations, these volumes provide concise yet extraordinarily wide-ranging coverage for British Literature survey courses. New to this volume are Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; new authors include Dorothy Wordsworth, John Clare, Tomson Highway, Derek Walcott, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The third edition now also offers substantially expanded representation of Irish, Scottish, and Welsh literatures, as well as contextual materials on Gothic literature, Modernism, and World War II. Material that no longer appears in the bound book may in most cases be found on the companion website; many larger works are also available in separate volumes that may at the instructor's request be bundled together with the anthology at no extra cost to the student. Features New to the Third Edition — New longer texts including Dickens's performance reading of "David Copperfield," Gaskell's *The Manchester Marriage*, Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and Beckett's *Endgame* — New short selections from longer works including Eliot's *Middlemarch*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*, and Tennyson's *In Memoriam A.H.H.* — New bound-book author entries for Dorothy Wordsworth, John Clare, Emily Brontë, Thomas de Quincey, Walter Pater, Isaac Rosenberg, Tomson Highway, Derek Walcott, Jeanette Winterson, and

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie — New selections representing “Literary Currents in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in the Long Nineteenth Century” — New “Contexts” section on “Gothic Literature” including materials by Horace Walpole, Ann Radcliffe, and Jane Austen — “Literature, Politics, and Cultural Identity” section includes numerous new authors and pieces, including work by Sorely MacLean, James Kelman, Gillian Clarke, Kamau Brathwaite, Kim Moore, and Warsan Shire

orphan of british lit: The Encyclopedia of British Literature, 3 Volume Set Gary Day, Jack Lynch, 2015-03-09 Provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the poetry, drama, fiction, and literary and cultural criticism produced from the Restoration of the English monarchy to the onset of the French Revolution Comprises over 340 entries arranged in A-Z format across three fully indexed and cross-referenced volumes Written by an international team of leading and emerging scholars Features an impressive scope and range of subjects: from courtship and circulating libraries, to the works of Samuel Johnson and Sarah Scott Includes coverage of both canonical and lesser-known authors, as well as entries addressing gender, sexuality, and other topics that have previously been underrepresented in traditional scholarship Represents the most comprehensive resource available on this period, and an indispensable guide to the rich diversity of British writing that ushered in the modern literary era 3 Volumes www.literatureencyclopedia.com

orphan of british lit: British Literature of World War I, Volume 5 Andrew Maunder, Angela K Smith, Jane Potter, Trudi Tate, 2017-09-29 Given the popular and scholarly interest in the First World War it is surprising how little contemporary literary work is available. This five-volume reset edition aims to redress this balance, making available an extensive collection of newly-edited short stories, novels and plays from 1914-19.

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume B - Second Edition Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry Qualls, Claire Waters, 2013-08-20 In all six of its volumes The Broadview Anthology of British Literature presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials. Innovative, authoritative and comprehensive, The Broadview Anthology of British Literature has established itself as a leader in the field. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. The two-volume Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition provides an attractive alternative to the full six-volume anthology. Though much more compact, the Concise Edition nevertheless provides instructors with substantial choice, offering both a strong selection of canonical authors and a sampling of lesser-known works. With an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials, accessible and engaging introductions, and full explanatory annotations, this edition of the acclaimed Broadview Anthology provides concise yet wide-ranging coverage for British literature survey courses. Sylvia Townsend Warner, Stevie Smith, J.M. Coetzee, Eavan Boland, and Zadie Smith are among those given full author entries for the first time. There are also new selections by a number of authors who were already included in the anthology—among them Seamus Heaney, Margaret Atwood, and Carol Ann Duffy. There are new contextual materials as well—including material on “The Natural, the Supernatural, and the Sublime” in the Age of Romanticism section, and material on “The New Art of Photography” in The Victorian Era. The new edition concludes with a new section offering a range of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction prose under the heading “Literature, Politics, and Cultural Identity in the Late Twentieth- and Early Twenty-first

Centuries." The Concise edition will also now include a substantial website component, providing for much greater flexibility. And an increasing number of works from the full six-volume anthology (or from its website component) are being made available in stand-alone Broadview Anthology of British Literature editions. (Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, for example, which was previously included in these pages, will now be available both as part of a stand-alone Broadview Anthology of British Literature edition of Tennyson's selected poetry and as part of the website component of the anthology's Concise Edition.)

orphan of british lit: Dress and Identity in British Literary Culture, 1870-1914 Rosy Aindow, 2010 Rosy Aindow's interdisciplinary study maps the literary response to the emergence of a modern fashion industry in late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Britain. The study argues dress is given a distinctive voice in novels of the period; works that embrace older sartorial tropes, but which simultaneously shape and formulate their own reflecting contemporary social concerns.

orphan of british lit: The History of British Literature on Film, 1895-2015 Greg M. Colón Semenza, Bob Hasenfratz, 2015-05-21 From *The Death of Nancy Sykes* (1897) to *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014) and beyond, cinematic adaptations of British literature participate in a complex and fascinating history. *The History of British Literature on Film, 1895-2015* is the only comprehensive narration of cinema's 100-year-old love affair with British literature. Unlike previous studies of literature and film, which tend to privilege particular authors such as Shakespeare and Jane Austen, or particular texts such as *Frankenstein*, or particular literary periods such as Medieval, this volume considers the multiple functions of filmed British literature as a cinematic subject in its own right—one reflecting the specific political and aesthetic priorities of different national and historical cinemas. In what ways has the British literary canon authorized and influenced the history and aesthetics of film, and in what ways has filmed British literature both affirmed and challenged the very idea of literary canonicity? Seeking to answer these and other key questions, this indispensable study shows how these adaptations emerged from and continue to shape the social, artistic, and commercial aspects of film history.

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume B, 3e - Modified eBook UK Edition Joseph Black et al., 2021-01-01 This Modified eBook version of *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume B*, 3rd edition omits in-copyright readings that are found in the print book. This ebook is available for purchase in the UK and select international markets. The two-volume *Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition* provides an attractive alternative to the full six-volume anthology. Though much more compact, the Concise Edition nevertheless provides substantial choice, offering both a strong selection of canonical authors and a sampling of lesser-known works. With an unparalleled selection of illustrations and of contextual materials, accessible and engaging introductions, and full explanatory annotations, these volumes provide concise yet extraordinarily wide-ranging coverage for British Literature survey courses. New to this volume are Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; new authors include Dorothy Wordsworth, John Clare, Tomson Highway, Derek Walcott, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The third edition now also offers substantially expanded representation of Irish, Scottish, and Welsh literatures, as well as contextual materials on Gothic literature, Modernism, and World War II. Material that no longer appears in the bound book may in most cases be found on the companion website; many larger works are also available in separate volumes that may at the instructor's request be bundled together with the anthology at no extra cost to the student.

orphan of british lit: Chambers's Cyclopaedia of English Literature Robert Chambers, Robert Carruthers, 1894

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 4: The Age of Romanticism - Third Edition Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2017-12-30 In all six of its volumes *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature* presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a

fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to matters such as race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. A two-volume Concise Edition and a one-volume Compact Edition are also available.

orphan of british lit: *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 4: The Age of Romanticism - Second Edition* Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2010-07-23 In all six of its volumes *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature* presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials. Innovative, authoritative and comprehensive, *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature* has established itself as a leader in the field. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. The second edition of volume 4: *The Age of Romanticism* includes James Hogg, Matthew Gregory Lewis, and John Polidori as well as new selections by Mary Shelley, Sir Walter Scott, Maria Edgeworth, Anna Laetitia Barbauld, and Percy Shelley. The new edition also includes two new sections of contextual materials. New to the bound book is "The Natural, The Human, The Supernatural, and the Sublime"—a section that includes not only a good selection of material from writers such as Edmund Burke and artists such as J.M.W. Turner but also material that may be less well known on topics such as changing human attitudes towards non-animals. New to the website is a wide-ranging selection of contextual materials on the Industrial Revolution, entitled "Steam Power and the Machine Age". Additional highlights of this volume include: Jane Austen's *Lady Susan*, a lesser-known but wonderfully readable epistolary short novel; "A Hymn to Na'ra'yena" by Sir William Jones; and, in an exception to the anthology's general policy of including works in their entirety, Mary Shelley is represented by the last two chapters of *The Last Man* and by a selection of letters.

orphan of british lit: *The Other East and Nineteenth-Century British Literature* T. McLean, 2011-11-30 The Polish exile and the Russian villain were familiar figures in nineteenth-century British culture. This book restores the significance of Eastern Europe to nineteenth-century British literature, offering new readings of Blake's *Europe*, Byron's *Mazeppa*, and Eliot's *Middlemarch*, and recovering influential works by Thomas Campbell and Jane Porter.

orphan of british lit: *Teaching Laboring-Class British Literature of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* Kevin Binfield, William J. Christmas, 2018-12-01 Behind our contemporary experience of globalization, precarity, and consumerism lies a history of colonization, increasing literacy, transnational trade in goods and labor, and industrialization. Teaching British laboring-class literature of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries means exploring ideas of class, status, and labor in relation to the historical developments that inform our lives as workers and members of society. This volume demonstrates pedagogical techniques and provides resources for students and teachers on autobiographies, broadside ballads, Chartism and other political movements, georgics, labor studies, satire, service learning, writing by laboring-class women, and writing by laboring people of African descent.

orphan of british lit: Symptoms of Disorder: Reading Madness in British Literature, 1744-1845 Natali, Ilaria , Volpone, Annalisa , 2016-03-30 The stylistic and cultural discourse concerning the narratives of mental disorder is the main focus of *Symptoms of Disorder: Reading Madness in British Literature 1744-1845*. This collection offers new insights into the representation of madness in British literature between two landmark dates for the social, philosophical and medical history of mental deviance: 1744 and 1845. In 1744, the Vagrancy Act first mentions 'lunatics' as a specific category, which is itself a social 'symptom' of an emerging need for isolation and confinement of the insane. A more sophisticated and attentive care of the 'fool' is testified only by the 1845 Lunatic Asylums Act, which established specific processes safeguarding against the wrongful detention of patients in public and private facilities. In stressing for the first time the momentous change the notion of madness underwent between these years, this book provides a fresh and absolutely unique perspective on some of the major works connected with mental disorder. The chronological boundaries also provide the collection with a definite and unifying frame, which comprises social, cultural, legal and medical aspects of madness as an historical phenomenon. It is within this frame that the eight essays composing the body of the book discuss how madness is recounted, or even experienced, by authors such as Christopher Smart and William Cowper, William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Thomas Perceval, Samuel Richardson, Charlotte Lennox, Eliza Haywood, and Alfred Tennyson. *Symptoms of Disorder* draws a wide-ranging map of different representations of madness and their historic functioning between the 18th and 19th centuries. The organizational principle of this collection is a double perspective, which allows to suitably articulate the characterizations of insanity into themes and genres. Reflecting the two main ways in which literary madness can be employed as a critical device in literature, the chapters are grouped into theme-oriented and writer-oriented analyses. Other collections dealing with literature and madness have already coped, to a certain degree, with works that represent insane characters and authors who adopt 'deviant' voices as a fictional or rhetoric expedient. Fewer studies of the same kind, instead, have offered a more comprehensive picture by also looking at the alleged insanity of the writer, and at those linguistic, stylistic and semantic elements which at some stage were commonly believed to be an expression of insanity. This is one of the first studies which addresses the representation of madness from both these intertwined perspectives. See www.cambriapress.com/books/9781604979251.cfm for more information.

orphan of british lit: Folklore in British Literature Sarah R. Wakefield, 2006 Folklore provides a metaphor for insecurity in British women's writing published between 1750 and 1880. When characters feel uneasy about separations between races, classes, or sexes, they speak of mermaids and «Cinderella» to make threatening women unreal and thus harmless. Because supernatural creatures change constantly, a name or story from folklore merely reinforces fears about empire, labor, and desire. To illustrate these fascinating rhetorical strategies, this book explores works by Sarah Fielding, Ann Radcliffe, Sydney Owenson, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Anne Thackeray, and Jean Ingelow, pushing our understanding of allusions to folktales, fairy tales, and myths beyond «happily ever after.»

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume A - Third Edition Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2016-12-13 In all six of its volumes *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature* presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials. Innovative, authoritative and comprehensive, *The Broadview Anthology of*

British Literature has established itself as a leader in the field. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. The two-volume Broadview Anthology of British Literature, Concise Edition provides an attractive alternative to the full six-volume anthology. Though much more compact, the concise edition nevertheless provides instructors with substantial choice, offering both a strong selection of canonical authors and a sampling of lesser-known works. With an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials, accessible and engaging introductions, and full explanatory annotations, the concise edition of this acclaimed Broadview anthology provides focused yet wide-ranging coverage for British literature survey courses. Among the works now included for the first time in the concise edition are Chaucer's *The Prioress's Tale*; the York Crucifixion play; more poems from Sidney's *Astrophil and Stella*; an expanded section of writings by Elizabeth I, more poems by Lady Mary Wroth, and an expanded selection of work by Margaret Cavendish. The literatures of Ireland, Gaelic Scotland, and Wales are now much better represented, and a selection of work by Laboring Class Poets is now included. There are also new contextual materials—including a substantial section on “Transatlantic Currents.” In the case of several authors and texts (among them *The Four Branches of the Mabinogi*, Julian of Norwich, Sir Thomas Malory, and Phillis Wheatley), the new edition will incorporate substantial improvements that have been made in the new editions of the period volumes published in recent years. As before, the Concise edition includes a substantial website component, providing instructors with a great degree of flexibility. For the first time, a selection of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* will be available online in facing-column format (with versions in modern English included opposite the original text).

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition, Volume A - Fourth Edition Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Wendy Lee, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Jason Rudy, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2024-06-11 The two-volume Broadview Anthology of British Literature, Concise Edition provides an attractive alternative to the full six-volume anthology. Though much more compact, the concise edition nevertheless provides a thoughtful balance between well-established canonical authors and a diverse array of lesser-known works. Guided by the latest scholarship in British literary studies, the anthology is committed to inclusiveness, social responsibility, and contextualization. With an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials, accessible and engaging introductions, and full explanatory annotations, the concise edition of this acclaimed Broadview anthology provides focused yet wide-ranging coverage for British literature survey courses. Among the works now included for the first time in the bound book of the Concise Edition, Volume A are poems by Gwerful Mechain, selections from Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron*, Samson Occom's autobiography, and selections from Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* and Frances Burney's *Evelina*. There are also new omnibus sections, including an expanded “Culture: A Portfolio” section with material on early modern theater and crossdressing, a revised section on “Other Lands, Other Cultures” in the early modern period, and sections addressing “The Enlightenment,” “Slavery and Resistance,” and “Empire and Enterprise.”

orphan of british lit: The Broadview Anthology of British Literature, Volume 5: The Victorian Era - Third Edition Joseph Black et al., 2021-06-01 Shaped by sound literary and historical scholarship, The Broadview Anthology of British Literature takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors and includes a broad selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to matters such as race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. The full anthology comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; a passcode to access the latter is included with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. A two-volume Concise Edition and a one-volume Compact Edition are also available. Highlights of Volume 5: The Victorian Era include the complete texts of *In Memoriam A.H.H.*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Carmilla*,

and Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, as well as Contexts sections on "Work and Poverty," "Women in Society," "Sexuality in the Victorian Era," "Nature and the Environment," "The New Woman," and "Britain, Empire, and a Wider World." The third edition also offers expanded representation of writers of color, including Mary Prince, Mary Seacole, Toru Dutt, and Rabindranath Tagore.

orphan of british lit: *A Hand-book of English Literature: British authors* Francis Henry Underwood, 1871

orphan of british lit: *When We Were Orphans* Kazuo Ishiguro, 2015-03-03 From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of the Booker Prize-winning novel *The Remains of the Day* comes this stunning work of soaring imagination. Born in early twentieth-century Shanghai, Banks was orphaned at the age of nine after the separate disappearances of his parents. Now, more than twenty years later, he is a celebrated figure in London society; yet the investigative expertise that has garnered him fame has done little to illuminate the circumstances of his parents' alleged kidnappings. Banks travels to the seething, labyrinthine city of his memory in hopes of solving the mystery of his own painful past, only to find that war is ravaging Shanghai beyond recognition—and that his own recollections are proving as difficult to trust as the people around him. Masterful, suspenseful and psychologically acute, *When We Were Orphans* offers a profound meditation on the shifting quality of memory, and the possibility of avenging one's past.

orphan of british lit: *The Child in British Literature* A. Gavin, 2012-02-20 The first volume to consider childhood over eight centuries of British writing, this book traces the literary child from medieval to contemporary texts. Written by international experts, the volume's essays challenge earlier readings of childhood and offer fascinating contributions to the current upsurge of interest in constructions of childhood.

orphan of british lit: *Cyclopædia of English Literature; a History, Critical and Biographical, of British Authors, from the Earliest to the Present Times. Edited by R. Chambers* Robert Chambers, 1858

orphan of british lit: *The Family in English Children's Literature* Ann Alston, 2008-06-03 From the trials of families experiencing divorce, as in Anne Fine's *Madame Doubtfire*, to the childcare problems highlighted in Jacqueline Wilson's *Tracy Beaker*, it might seem that the traditional family and the ideals that accompany it have long vanished. However, in *The Family in English Children's Literature*, Ann Alston argues that this is far from the case. She suggests that despite the tales of family woe portrayed in children's literature, the desire for the happy, contented nuclear family remains inherent within the ideological subtexts of children's literature. Using 1818 as a starting point, Alston investigates families in children's literature at their most intimate, focusing on how they share their spaces, their ideals of home, and even on what they eat for dinner. What emerges from Alston's study are not so much the contrasts that exist between periods, but rather the startling similarities of the ideology of family intrinsic to children's literature. *The Family in English Children's Literature* sheds light on who maintains control, who behaves, and how significant children's literature is in shaping our ideas about what makes a family good.

orphan of british lit: *Cyclopaedia of English Literature* Chambers, 1860

orphan of british lit: *Cyclopaedia of English Literature* Robert Chambers, 1854

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