

orphan british literature

orphan british literature is a captivating topic that explores how the figure of the orphan has shaped British literary tradition for centuries. From classic novels to modern narratives, orphans have been used as powerful symbols to reflect societal issues, personal resilience, and the quest for identity. This article delves into the historical context of orphans in British literature, examines iconic orphan characters, analyzes the themes and motifs associated with them, and discusses their cultural impact. Readers will discover how orphan narratives have evolved, why they remain compelling, and what they reveal about British society and storytelling. Whether you are a literature student, educator, or enthusiast, this comprehensive guide provides valuable insights into the enduring legacy of orphan figures in British literary canon.

- Historical Context of Orphans in British Literature
- Iconic Orphan Characters in British Novels
- Themes and Motifs Surrounding Orphans
- Orphan Narratives in Children's and Young Adult Literature
- Cultural Impact and Societal Reflections
- Contemporary Depictions of Orphans in British Literature

Historical Context of Orphans in British Literature

The representation of orphans in British literature has deep roots, dating back to the early days of the English novel. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the orphan figure often emerged against a backdrop of social upheaval, poverty, and changing family structures. The Industrial Revolution, urbanization, and shifting social norms contributed to the prevalence of orphaned children, both in reality and fiction. British authors harnessed the orphan archetype to highlight issues such as class disparity, neglect, and the struggle for survival.

Orphan British literature reflects the historical realities of its time. In Victorian England, for example, institutions like workhouses and orphanages were common, and literature mirrored the harsh conditions faced by children without families. Writers such as Charles Dickens and Charlotte Brontë used orphan protagonists to expose injustices and evoke empathy in readers, often advocating for reform and compassion. The orphan character thus became a vessel for social commentary and moral questioning, leaving a lasting mark on British narrative traditions.

Iconic Orphan Characters in British Novels

British literature features a wealth of unforgettable orphan characters whose stories have resonated across generations. These protagonists often embark on journeys that test their resilience, shape their identities, and challenge societal norms. Their narratives are central to many classic British novels, offering readers both entertainment and insight into human nature.

Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre, created by Charlotte Brontë, stands as one of the most renowned orphans in British fiction. Her story traces a journey from neglected child to independent woman, navigating hardships at Gateshead, Lowood School, and Thornfield Hall. Jane's orphan status amplifies her vulnerability, but also her strength and self-determination. Through Jane, Brontë explores themes of social class, gender, and autonomy.

Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* is another iconic orphan, thrust into the grim realities of Victorian London. Orphaned at birth, Oliver faces exploitation, criminality, and institutional neglect. His innocence and kindness contrast sharply with the world around him, serving as a critique of social injustice and the failure of public welfare systems. Dickens's portrayal of Oliver has influenced countless depictions of orphaned children in literature.

Harry Potter

In more contemporary British literature, Harry Potter stands out as a globally recognized orphan character. Orphaned as a baby, Harry's journey at Hogwarts is defined by his search for belonging, family, and identity. J.K. Rowling's series revitalized the orphan archetype for a new generation, blending magical adventure with timeless questions about love, loss, and self-discovery.

Themes and Motifs Surrounding Orphans

Orphan British literature is rich in recurring themes and motifs that give depth and resonance to the stories. The orphan figure often embodies universal struggles, making these narratives relatable and emotionally impactful.

Loss and Resilience

Loss is a defining experience for orphan characters, shaping their emotional landscape and narrative trajectory. Yet, British authors frequently use this loss to highlight resilience. Orphans must overcome adversity, navigate hostile environments, and find inner strength. Their stories inspire readers by showcasing the power of hope and perseverance.

Identity and Belonging

The quest for identity is central to orphan British literature. Deprived of familial ties, orphan protagonists must forge their own sense of self, often in opposition to societal expectations. Their search for belonging—whether within chosen families, communities, or personal ideals—serves as a compelling narrative engine.

Social Critique

Orphan narratives often function as vehicles for social critique. By focusing on marginalized children, British authors illuminate issues such as poverty, injustice, and institutional failure. Through the eyes of orphans, readers confront uncomfortable truths about society, prompting reflection and, at times, calls for change.

- Alienation and isolation as recurring motifs
- Moral development tested by adversity
- Transformation and personal growth
- Contrast between innocence and corruption

Orphan Narratives in Children's and Young Adult Literature

Orphans have remained a staple in British children's and young adult literature, captivating readers with stories of adventure, discovery, and self-empowerment. These works often use the orphan's journey to address themes of courage, independence, and the search for family.

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* features Mary Lennox, an orphaned girl whose transformation parallels the rejuvenation of the garden she discovers. The narrative celebrates healing, friendship, and the power of nature, while also exploring the emotional impact of loss and isolation.

Peter Pan

J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* introduces readers to the Lost Boys—orphans who find belonging and purpose in Neverland. The story taps into the fantasy of escaping adult constraints, exploring themes of childhood innocence and the longing for family.

Modern Young Adult Fiction

Contemporary British young adult literature continues to feature orphan protagonists, using their stories to address complex social and psychological issues. These narratives often blend realism with fantasy, offering diverse perspectives on what it means to grow up without parents and the journey toward self-acceptance.

Cultural Impact and Societal Reflections

The prevalence of orphans in British literature has had a significant cultural impact, shaping public perceptions of childhood, family, and social responsibility. Orphan stories have inspired charitable works, legislative reforms, and shifts in societal attitudes toward vulnerable children.

Literary depictions of orphans have contributed to the development of the social novel, a genre focused on exposing societal flaws and advocating for change. The emotional resonance of orphan narratives encourages empathy and awareness, prompting readers to engage with issues beyond the page.

Moreover, orphan British literature has influenced art, theatre, and film, with adaptations bringing these stories to wider audiences. The enduring appeal of orphan protagonists highlights their universal relevance and the timeless nature of their journeys.

Contemporary Depictions of Orphans in British Literature

Modern British authors continue to explore the orphan archetype, adapting it to reflect

current social and cultural realities. Contemporary orphan narratives are often more nuanced, delving into psychological complexity, diverse backgrounds, and intersectional identities.

In recent decades, literature has examined the experiences of foster children, refugees, and individuals estranged from family by circumstance or choice. These stories foreground themes of trauma, healing, and resilience, aligning with broader conversations about mental health and social support.

The orphan remains a vital figure in British literature, serving as a lens through which authors interrogate identity, belonging, and the changing nature of family. By continually reimagining the orphan's journey, British writers ensure the relevance and vitality of this enduring literary tradition.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about Orphan British Literature

Q: Why are orphans such prominent figures in British literature?

A: Orphans are prominent because they symbolize vulnerability, resilience, and the search for identity. Their stories allow authors to explore themes of loss, social injustice, and personal growth, making them relatable and compelling to readers.

Q: Which British novels feature famous orphan protagonists?

A: Notable British novels with orphan protagonists include "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë, "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens, "Harry Potter" by J.K. Rowling, and "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Q: How do orphan narratives reflect social issues in British society?

A: Orphan narratives often highlight issues such as poverty, neglect, institutional failure, and class disparity. By focusing on marginalized characters, these stories encourage readers to consider societal problems and advocate for change.

Q: What themes are commonly associated with orphan characters in British literature?

A: Common themes include loss, resilience, identity, belonging, social critique, transformation, and the contrast between innocence and corruption.

Q: How has the portrayal of orphans in British literature changed over time?

A: Early portrayals emphasized hardship and survival, while modern narratives offer more nuanced depictions, exploring psychological complexity, diverse backgrounds, and contemporary social issues.

Q: Are there orphan characters in British children's literature?

A: Yes, orphan characters are central to many British children's books, such as "The Secret Garden," "Peter Pan," and the "Harry Potter" series. These stories use the orphan's journey to address themes of adventure, healing, and self-discovery.

Q: What impact have orphan stories had on British culture?

A: Orphan stories have shaped public attitudes toward childhood and social responsibility, inspired charitable work, influenced legislation, and contributed to the development of art, theatre, and film adaptations.

Q: How do contemporary British authors approach orphan narratives?

A: Contemporary authors often focus on psychological depth, intersectional identities, and current social issues, such as foster care and refugee experiences, making orphan narratives relevant for modern readers.

Q: What motifs recur in orphan British literature?

A: Recurring motifs include alienation, isolation, moral development, transformation, and the contrast between innocence and societal corruption.

Q: Why do orphan stories continue to resonate with readers?

A: Orphan stories resonate because they address universal human experiences such as loss, identity, and the desire for belonging, making them timeless and emotionally impactful.

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Orphan British Literature: Exploring the Narratives of Abandoned Childhoods

Orphanhood, a theme woven deeply into the fabric of human experience, finds poignant expression in British literature. From the stark realities of workhouses to the gilded cages of wealthy benefactors, the depiction of orphans reveals much about societal attitudes and the enduring power of the human spirit. This post delves into the fascinating world of orphan narratives in British literature, exploring key works and the nuanced ways in which authors have portrayed these often-vulnerable characters. We will uncover the recurring themes, the evolving representations across different eras, and the lasting impact these stories have had on our understanding of childhood and social structures.

H2: The Victorian Era: Workhouses and Social Commentary

The Victorian era (1837-1901) saw a significant rise in the portrayal of orphans in literature, often reflecting the era's social realities. Industrialization and urbanization led to increased poverty and a burgeoning orphan population, many of whom found themselves in workhouses. These institutions, though intended to provide care, often became symbols of neglect and hardship. Charles Dickens, a master of social commentary, vividly depicted this harsh reality in works like *Oliver Twist*. Oliver's journey, marked by hunger, abuse, and the criminal underworld, became a powerful indictment of Victorian social structures and the failings of the Poor Law system. Similarly, other works, though perhaps less well-known today, like those of Mary Elizabeth Braddon, frequently featured orphans navigating the brutal landscape of poverty and societal indifference. These narratives served not only as entertainment but as a potent call for social reform.

H2: Beyond the Workhouse: Orphanhood in Different Social Contexts

While workhouses feature prominently, orphan narratives in British literature extend beyond the confines of poverty. Authors also explored the experiences of orphans from wealthier backgrounds, often highlighting the psychological consequences of abandonment and the complexities of familial relationships. The orphan might inherit wealth and status but lack genuine affection and a sense of belonging, leading to a different type of suffering. This theme is explored subtly in certain Victorian novels and more directly in later 20th-century works. The absence of parental guidance and the struggle for identity are universal themes, transcending social class.

H3: The Psychological Impact: Loss and Identity

The psychological impact of orphanhood is a central theme running through many of these

narratives. The loss of parents often leads to a profound sense of insecurity, abandonment issues, and a struggle to forge a sense of self. Characters often grapple with questions of identity, belonging, and the search for a stable foundation in a world that has failed to provide one. The narratives explore the lasting effects of trauma and the resilience needed to overcome adversity. This exploration transcends simple plots, delving into the emotional and psychological complexities of the human experience.

H2: Evolving Representations: Modern and Contemporary Perspectives

As societal attitudes towards orphans and child welfare evolved, so did their portrayal in literature. The 20th and 21st centuries see a shift away from purely deterministic narratives, with a greater focus on the complexities of individual experience and the potential for healing and growth. While the challenges remain, there's a stronger emphasis on resilience, agency, and the search for meaning in the face of loss. Contemporary works often explore the nuances of adoption, fostering, and the enduring impact of early childhood experiences on adult life.

H3: Exploring Beyond the Binary: Diverse Orphan Narratives

It's important to acknowledge the diversity within "orphan British literature." The experiences of orphans varied widely depending on factors like gender, race, and class. While many narratives focus on white, middle-class orphans, a growing body of work explores the unique challenges faced by orphans from marginalized communities. This expanded perspective provides a richer understanding of the multifaceted realities of orphanhood.

H2: The Enduring Legacy of Orphan Narratives

The enduring appeal of orphan narratives lies in their ability to tap into universal themes of loss, resilience, and the search for belonging. These stories offer profound insights into the human condition, reminding us of the importance of family, community, and the enduring power of the human spirit to overcome adversity. They continue to resonate with readers because they explore fundamental aspects of the human experience – the need for love, acceptance, and a secure sense of self. These narratives, whether set in the grim realities of Victorian England or the more nuanced settings of contemporary Britain, continue to offer compelling explorations of the human condition.

Conclusion:

Orphan narratives in British literature offer a rich tapestry of human experience, reflecting societal changes and offering timeless insights into the complexities of the human heart. From the stark realities of Victorian workhouses to the more nuanced explorations of modern-day narratives, the theme of orphanhood continues to resonate with readers, highlighting the enduring power of storytelling to illuminate the human condition. By examining these narratives, we gain a deeper understanding not only of the challenges faced by orphans but also of the resilience, adaptability, and capacity for love that exists within us all.

FAQs:

1. Are all orphan narratives in British literature inherently tragic? Not necessarily. While many depict hardship, many also showcase resilience, growth, and the finding of unexpected love and

belonging.

2. Which authors besides Dickens significantly contributed to the portrayal of orphans in British literature? Authors like Mary Elizabeth Braddon, Charles Kingsley (in *The Water-Babies*), and numerous other authors from various periods contributed significantly.
3. How have depictions of orphans changed over time? Early depictions often focused on poverty and societal neglect. Modern portrayals offer more nuanced perspectives, exploring psychological complexities and diverse experiences.
4. What are some contemporary examples of orphan narratives in British literature? Searching for contemporary works specifically focusing on orphans requires looking beyond the explicit label, focusing instead on themes of abandonment and fostering in modern literary fiction.
5. Beyond novels, where else can we find representations of orphanhood in British culture? Theatre, poetry, and film also contain numerous portrayals of orphans, offering diverse perspectives and artistic interpretations.

orphan british literature: 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 british literature: 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.

orphan british literature: *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 british literature: *Orphan at My Door* Jean Little, 2001 Through the diary of 10-year-old Victoria Cope, we learn about the arrival of ragged Mary Anna, one of the thousands of impoverished British children who were sent to Canada at the beginning of the century. Mary Anna joins the Cope family as a servant and is treated well, but she has to cope with the initial apprehension of the family members and the loss of her brother, Jasper, who was placed with another family. Victoria vows to help Mary Anna find her brother, so they can be a family once again.

orphan british literature: *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 british literature: *Call of the Curlew* Elizabeth Brooks, 2018-06-28 'Unforgettable' - ROSAMUND LUPTON Virginia Wrathmell has always known she will meet her death on the marsh. One snowy New Year's Eve, at the age of eighty-six, Virginia feels the time has finally come. New Year's Eve, 1939. Virginia is ten, an orphan arriving to meet her new parents at their mysterious house, Salt Winds. Her new home sits on the edge of a vast marsh, a beautiful but dangerous place. War feels far away out here amongst the birds and shifting sands - until the day a German fighter plane crashes into the marsh. The people at Salt Winds are the only ones to see it. What happens next is something Virginia will regret for the next seventy-five years, and which will change the whole course of her life.

orphan british literature: *Orphan of Asia* Zhuoliu Wu, 2008-03-22 Born in Taiwan, raised in the scholarly traditions of ancient China but forced into the Japanese educational system, Hu

Taiming, the protagonist of *Orphan of Asia*, ultimately finds himself estranged from all three cultures. Taiming eventually makes his mark in the colonial Japanese educational system and graduates from a prestigious college. However, he finds that his Japanese education and his adoption of modern ways have alienated him from his family and native village. He becomes a teacher in the Japanese colonial system but soon quits his post and finds that, having repudiated his roots, he doesn't seem to belong anywhere. Thus begins the long journey for Taiming to find his rightful place, during which he is accused of spying for both China and Japan and witnesses the effects of Japanese imperial expansion, the horrors of war, and the sense of anger and powerlessness felt by those living under colonial rule. Zhuoliu Wu's autobiographical novel is widely regarded as a classic of modern Asian literature and a groundbreaking expression of the postwar Taiwanese national consciousness.

orphan british literature: *Never Let Me Go* Kazuo Ishiguro, 2009-03-19 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER • The moving, suspenseful, beautifully atmospheric modern classic from the acclaimed author of *The Remains of the Day* and *Klara and the Sun*—"a Gothic tour de force (*The New York Times*) with an extraordinary twist. "Brilliantly executed." —Margaret Atwood "A page-turner and a heartbreaker." —TIME "Masterly." —Sunday Times As children, Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. It was a place of mercurial cliques and mysterious rules where teachers were constantly reminding their charges of how special they were. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back at their shared past and understand just what it is that makes them special—and how that gift will shape the rest of their time together.

orphan british literature: *Orphan Texts* Laura Peters, 2000 The study argues that the prevalence of the orphan figure can be explained by considering the family. The family and all it came to represent - legitimacy, race and national belonging - was in crisis. In order to reaffirm itself the family needed a scapegoat: it found one in the orphan figure. As one who embodied the loss of the family, the orphan figure came to represent a dangerous threat to the family; and the family reaffirmed itself through the expulsion of this threatening difference. The vulnerable and miserable condition of the orphan, as one without rights, enabled it to be conceived of, and treated as such, by the very institutions responsible for its care. *Orphan Texts* will of interest to final year undergraduates, postgraduates, academics and those interested in the areas of Victorian literature, Victorian studies, postcolonial studies, history and popular culture.--BOOK JACKET.

orphan british literature: *A Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors* Samuel Austin Allibone, 1897

orphan british literature: *A Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors, Living and Deceased, from the Earliest Account to the Latter Half of the Nineteenth Century* Samuel Austin Allibone, 1881

orphan british literature: *A Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors, Living and Deceased* Samuel Austin Allibone, 1870

orphan british literature: *The Secret Garden* Hodgson B.F., «Таинственный сад» – любимая классика для читателей всех возрастов, жемчужина творчества Фрэнсис Ходжсон Бернетт, роман о заново открытой радости жизни и магии силы. Мэри Леннокс, жестокое и испорченное дитя высшего света, потеряв родителей в Индии, возвращается в Англию, на воспитание к дяде-затворнику в его поместье. Однако дядя находится в постоянных отъездах, и Мэри начинает исследовать округу, в ходе чего делает много открытий, в том числе находит удивительный маленький сад, огороженный стеной, вход в который почему-то запрещен. Отыскав ключ и потайную дверцу, девочка попадает внутрь. Но чьи тайны хранит этот загадочный садик? И нужно ли знать то, что находится под запретом?.. Впрочем, это не единственный секрет в поместье...

orphan british literature: *Crimson Poison* Susan Moore, 2016-06 A thrilling action and adventure series set in futuristic Hong Kong with an awesome female hero.

orphan british literature: The Little White Bird J. M. Barrie, 2009-05-01 The Little White Bird is a series of short episodes, narratives and day-to-day accounts of J M Barrie's life in London. The tone oscillates from whimsical to social comedy to darkly aggressive. Part of the book's continuing popularity was due to the couple of softer chapters telling the story of Peter Pan, later to become the hero of Barrie's most famous work.

orphan british literature: A Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors, Living and Deceased, from the Earliest Accounts to the Latter Half of the Nineteenth Century Samuel Austin Allibone, 1871

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

orphan british literature: The Unseen World: A Novel Liz Moore, 2016-07-26 From the New York Times bestselling author of Long Bright River: The moving story of a daughter's quest to discover the truth about her beloved father's hidden past. Ada Sibelius is raised by David, her brilliant, eccentric, socially inept single father, who directs a computer science lab in 1980s-era Boston. Home-schooled, Ada accompanies David to work every day; by twelve, she is a painfully shy prodigy. The lab begins to gain acclaim at the same time that David's mysterious history comes into question. When his mind begins to falter, leaving Ada virtually an orphan, she is taken in by one of David's colleagues. Soon she embarks on a mission to uncover her father's secrets: a process that carries her from childhood to adulthood. What Ada discovers on her journey into a virtual universe will keep the reader riveted until The Unseen World's heart-stopping, fascinating conclusion.

orphan british literature: The Red Cross Orphans (The Red Cross Orphans, Book 1) Glynis Peters, 2021-11-30 From the internationally bestselling author of The Secret Orphan comes her brand new unputdownable historical fiction novel!

orphan british literature: Cultural Orphans in America Diana Loercher Pazicky, 2008-10-01 Images of orphanhood have pervaded American fiction since the colonial period. Common in British literature, the orphan figure in American texts serves a unique cultural purpose, representing marginalized racial, ethnic, and religious groups that have been scapegoated by the dominant culture. Among these groups are the Native Americans, the African Americans, immigrants, and Catholics. In keeping with their ideological function, images of orphanhood occur within the context of family metaphors in which children represent those who belong to the family, or the dominant culture, and orphans represent those who are excluded from it. In short, the family as an institution provides the symbolic stage on which the drama of American identity formation is played out. Applying aspects of psychoanalytic theory that pertain to identity formation, specifically René Girard's theory of the scapegoat, *Cultural Orphans in America* examines the orphan trope in early American texts and the antebellum nineteenth-century American novel as a reaction to the social upheaval and internal tensions generated by three major episodes in American history: the Great Migration, the American Revolution, and the rise of the republic. In Puritan religious texts and Anne Bradstreet's poetry, orphan imagery expresses the doubt and uncertainty that shrouded the mission to the New World. During the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary periods, the separation of the colony from England inspired an identification with orphanhood in Thomas Paine's writings, and novels by Charles Brockden Brown and James Fenimore Cooper encode in orphan imagery the distinction between Native Americans and the new Americans who have usurped their position as children of the land. In women's sentimental fiction of the 1850s, images of orphanhood mirror class and ethnic conflict, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, like Frederick Douglass's autobiographies, employs orphan imagery to suggest the slave's orphanhood from the human as well as the national family.

orphan british literature: Orphan Monster Spy Matt Killeen, 2018-03-20 Her name is Sarah. She's blonde, blue-eyed, and Jewish in 1939 Germany. And her act of resistance is about to change the world. After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, fifteen-year-old Sarah meets a mysterious man with an ambiguous accent, a suspiciously bare apartment, and a lockbox full of weapons. He's part of

the secret resistance against the Third Reich, and he needs Sarah to hide in plain sight at a school for the daughters of top Nazi brass, posing as one of them. If she can befriend the daughter of a key scientist and get invited to her house, she might be able to steal the blueprints to a bomb that could destroy the cities of Western Europe. Nothing could prepare Sarah for her cutthroat schoolmates, and soon she finds herself in a battle for survival unlike any she'd ever imagined. But anyone who underestimates this innocent-seeming girl does so at their peril. She may look sweet, but she's the Nazis' worst nightmare.

orphan british literature: Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline, 2019-01-08 From Christina Baker Kline comes a novel about two women: one about to age out of the foster care system, the other 90 years old and carrying both a tremendous secret and a story of a life formed by a part of American history almost entirely forgotten: the Orphan Trains Molly Ayer has one last chance, and she knows it. Close to being kicked out of her foster home -- just months from turning 18 and "aging out" of the system -- Molly should be grateful that her boyfriend found her a community service project: helping an old lady clean out her home. Molly can't help but think that the 50 hours will be tedious, but at least they'll keep her out of juvie, and right now that's all she cares about. Ninety-one-year-old Vivian Daly has lived a quiet life on the coast of Maine for decades. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are keys to a turbulent past. Molly is about to discover -- as she and Vivian unpack her possessions, and memories -- that Vivian's story is a piece of America's tumultuous history now largely forgotten: the tale of a young Irish immigrant, orphaned in New York City and put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other orphaned children whose destiny would be determined by luck and chance. As Molly digs deeper, she finds surprising parallels in her own experience as a Penobscot Indian and Vivian's story -- and Molly realizes that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *THE TRAIN RIDER* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, of unexpected friendships, and of the secrets we carry with us that keep us from finding out who we are.

orphan british literature: A Critical Dictionary of English Literature Samuel Austin Allibone, 1871

orphan british literature: Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London Andrea Warren, 2011 The motivations behind Dickens' novels and the poverty-stricken world of 19th century London.

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super-beings no more human than they are: pagan gods or fairy-queens, Cyclopes, sea-monsters, witches, or things even stranger than this. The children must experiment with, and learn to control, their strange abilities in order to escape their captors. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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orphan british literature: Cyclopaedia of English Literature Robert Chambers, 2023-04-21 Reprint of the original, first published in 1858. The publishing house Anatiposi publishes historical books as reprints. Due to their age, these books may have missing pages or inferior quality. Our aim is to preserve these books and make them available to the public so that they do not get lost.

orphan british literature: *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.)

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orphan british literature: 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 british literature: *Genre in English Literature, 1650-1700: Transitions in Drama and Fiction* Pilar Cuder-Dominguez, 2014-09-26 This book examines the theories and practices of narrative and drama in England between 1650 and 1700, a period that, in bridging the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, has been comparatively neglected, and on which, at the time of writing, there is a dearth of new approaches. Critical consensus over these two genres has failed to account for its main features and evolution throughout the period in at least two ways. First, most approaches omit the manifold contradictions between the practice and the theory of a genre. Writers were generally aware of working within a tradition of representation which they nevertheless often challenged, even while the theory was being drafted (e.g., by John Dryden). The ideal and the real were in unacknowledged conflict. Second, critical readings of these late Stuart texts have fitted them proactively into a neat evolutionary pattern that reached eighteenth-century genres without detours or disjunctions, or else they have oversimplified the wealth of generic conventions deployed in the period, so that to the present-day reader, for instance, Restoration drama consists only of either city comedies or Dryden's tragedies. A cursory survey of the critical history of seventeenth-century drama and fiction confirms these views. Although the 1970s and 1980s brought about a crop of interesting reassessments of the field, fiction continues to be seen as a genre that emerged in the eighteenth century. Most critics still treat earlier manifestations as marginal or as prenovelistic experiments; and in most instances it is even possible to discern a sexist bias to justify

this treatment, as these works were written by women, unlike much of the canonical fiction of the eighteenth century. A revision of the critical foundations hitherto held and a re-evaluation of the works of fiction written in the seventeenth century is therefore in order. This study adopts, as a basic and essential methodological tenet, the need to decenter the analysis of Restoration fiction and drama from the traditional canon, too limited and conservative and featuring works that are not always suitable as paradigmatic instances of the literary production of the period. These studies have thus been based on a larger than usual—if not on a full—corpus of works produced within the period, and have sought to ascertain the role played in the development of each of the genres under consideration by works, topics, or even by authors hitherto somewhat outside mainstream literary criticism. This opens the field of English literature further through the framing of new questions or revising of old ones, as well as to beginning a dialogue, yet again, as to the meanings of these literary works and also to their circulation from their inception up to the present time. In addition, the rare attention given to works by women makes this all the more an important book for collections in English literature of the period.

orphan british literature: 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 british literature: 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.

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