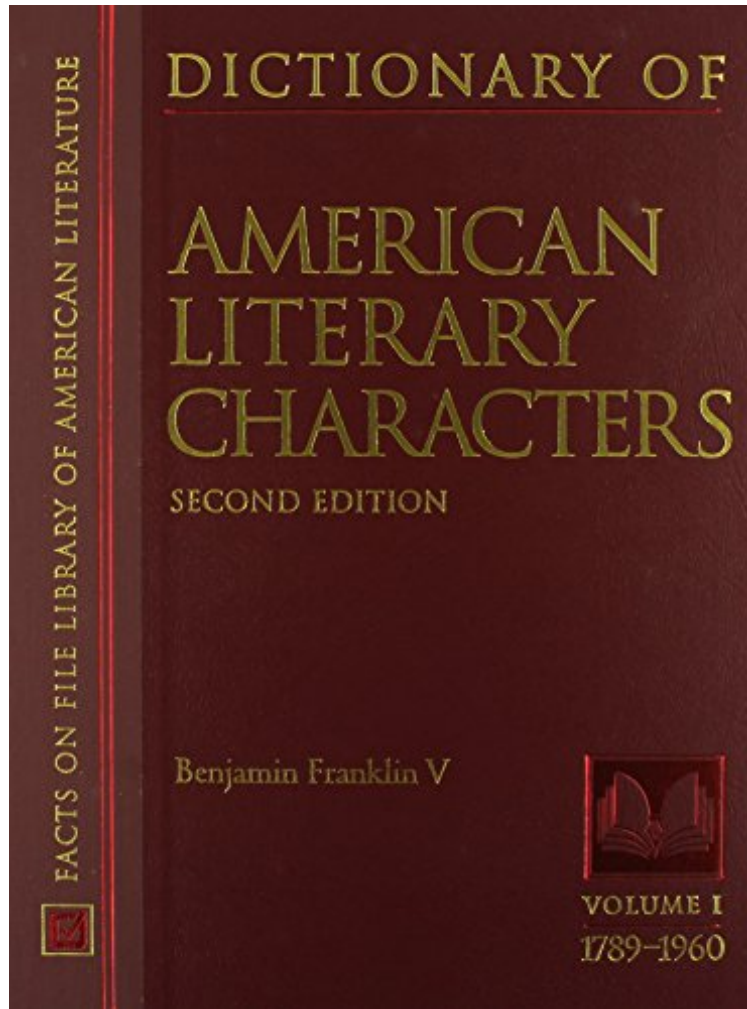


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## Dictionary of American Literary Characters (Facts on File Library of American Literature)(2 vol. set)

*Benjamin, V. Franklin, Fred Grayson*  
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**Benjamin, V. Franklin, Fred Grayson : Dictionary of American Literary Characters (Facts on File Library of American Literature)(2 vol. set)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dictionary of American Literary Characters (Facts on File Library of American Literature)(2 vol. set):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A GOOD BASIC INTRODUCTION By Silence Dogood I received Vol II of a 2 volume set that was ordered. This review concerns Volume 2 which covers the time period 1961-2000. The book is divided into three sections. Section I is an alphabetical listing of characters with a one-line description of them and the name of the book(s) in which they appear. Some of the longer entries have lots of commas and semi-

colons in keeping with the one-sentence format. Jack Ryan, who appears in several Tom Clancy novels, rates eleven lines. Section II is an alphabetical title index. If you can't think of a specific character, you can check the book title/author's name and probably recall the character. Section III is an alphabetical author index with book titles for the period mentioned above. In some instances, such as for Steinbeck, See also Volume I is indicated. The book is a useful starting point for recalling some of the characters about whom you might have read or heard. The book is neither the best nor the worst.

A dictionary of characters from American literature. The two volumes cover more than two centuries of characters, from 1789, the date of the first American novel, through to the 20th century. There are more than 16,000 entries - over 5000 more than in the previous edition - spanning a broad scope of contemporary popular fiction, including characters from dozens of American novels published since 1980. Drawn from award-winning, best-selling and critically-acclaimed works, each entry identifies the novel in which the character appears and summarizes the character's role and relationship to other characters in the novel. This edition also includes indices that allow readers to search for information by title and author.

From Library Journal First published ten years ago, this important survey of American literary characters has been divided into two volumes for its second edition, the first volume covering 1789-1960 and the second volume covering 1961-2000. Since both volumes run from A to Z, one must consult both for authors like Tennessee Williams and Richard Wright, who lived during both periods. Like the first edition, this work aims to provide factual descriptions of "major characters in significant American novels," as well as characters in award-winning books and in books by such best-selling authors as Jean Auel. Franklin (American literature, Univ. of South Carolina), the editor of the first edition, is also listed as this edition's editor, though the American BookWorks Corporation is responsible for the revisions. Most of the contributors hold Ph.D.s and publish in literary journals. There are 16,000 entries, with most of the 5000 new ones representing works published from 1979 to 2000; entries from the first edition, which ran through 1979, were not changed. There are both author and title indexes, the latter being a new feature in this edition. In the author index, the characters in the novels covered are listed separately under each novel's title. This set doesn't aim to provide the brief evaluative analysis that one finds in works such as *Major Characters in American Fiction* (Diane, 2001), but it is certainly the most comprehensive tool available for identifying characters when one has forgotten a name, author, or title. A very useful reference book for larger academic and public libraries. Peter Dollard, Alma Coll. Lib., MI Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist New edition offers over 5,000 more entries, for a total in excess of 16,000. Among the additions are characters from selected works by Louise Erdrich, Stephen King, Larry McMurtry, and Toni Morrison, among others. Also new is a title index. RBBC Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved