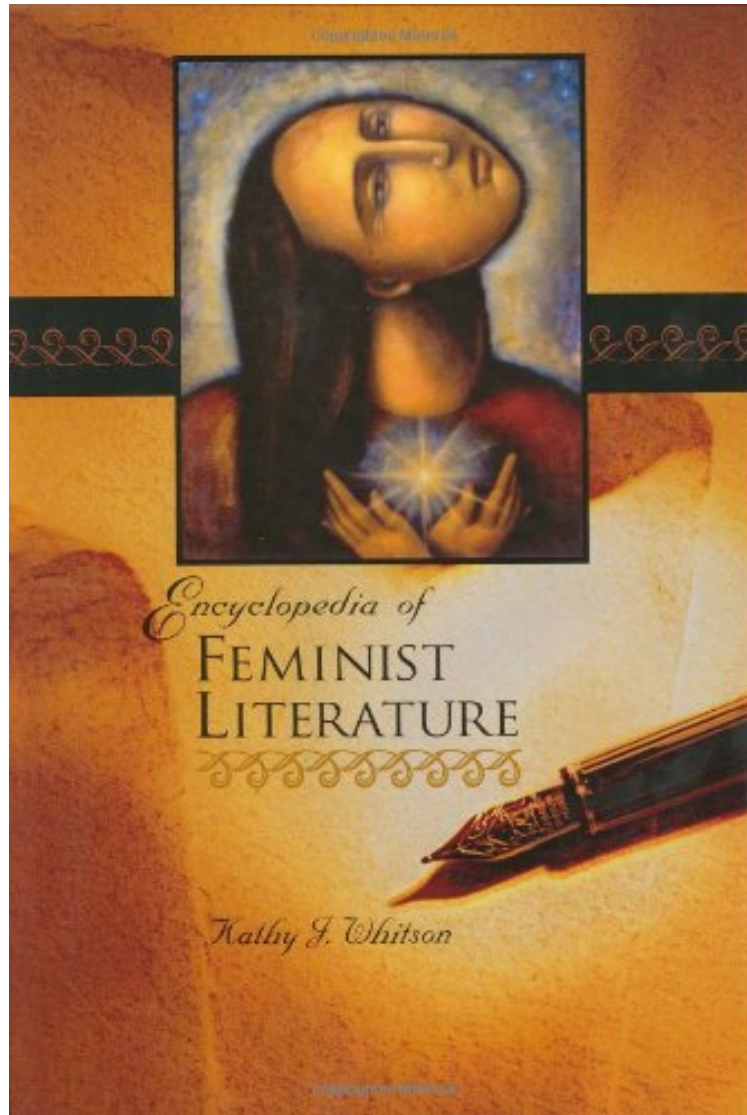


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Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature

Kathy J. Whitson

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Kathy J. Whitson : Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interpretative summary of each authorBy Midwest Book ReviewFrom Isabel Allende to Anzia Yeziarska, seventy women writers whose works are widely read in English are featured in an A-Z reference which contains not just the usual biographical sketch and outline of major works, but an interpretative summary of each author along with more general essays on feminist-related topics. Add cross-references and background along with bibliographic references and you have a reference not just for college-level students, but

many a high school reader.

Many women writers have secured a solid place in the literary canon, while others have remained marginalized. This reference includes alphabetically arranged entries on roughly 70 women writers whose works are widely read in English, and on some 20 related topics. While some of the writers profiled are widely known, others have not yet received as much attention. And while most of the writers are from England and America, the volume also profiles Chilean, Brazilian, Indian, South African, Australian, French, and German authors. The writers selected are feminist, in that their works have challenged traditional gender roles, explored female oppression, or critiqued patriarchal social structures. In addition to providing biographical information, the entries include interpretative summaries of major works. Each author entry includes biographical information, an extensive summary treatment of at least one of her works, a list of her other major works, cross-references to related entries, and a list of works for further reading. What distinguishes this encyclopedia from the many other volumes addressing feminist literature or literature by women is the interpretative summary in each entry. The volume closes with a list of works cited. Entries are clearly written and are accessible to high school students and undergraduates.

From BooklistAs stated in the introduction, this volume is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of authors, literary terms, and genres. Instead, the purpose is to provide undergraduate, high-school, and general readers with an entry point to feminist literature. In her introduction, Whitson, a professor of English, tackles the "problematic term feminist" with a short history of the concept and finally defines it as the "call for the social, political and economic equality of women."The authors are predominantly American and British, but significant authors from elsewhere who have been published in English are included. All of the nearly 70 authors are creative writers and not theorists, selected because their works have challenged traditional gender roles, explored female oppression, or critiqued patriarchal social structures. Among them are Isabel Allende, Elizabeth Gaskell, Toni Morrison, Amy Tan, and Virginia Woolf. Each author entry includes biographical information, a thorough interpretative summary of at least one major work, a list of her other writings, internal cross-references, and a list of "References and Suggested Readings." The purpose of the summary section is to entice students and general readers to explore each author's works further. In addition to the author entries, there are 20 articles covering related topics such as Abolition, Marriage, and pseudonyms. The volume closes with a list of all works cited. Although most of the women discussed here are covered extensively in other encyclopedias of literature, this is a handy introduction to some key feminist writers. Readable and accessible, Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature is a worthwhile purchase for public, high-school, and undergraduate collections. Lisa JohnstonCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Whitson profiles 69 feminist writers--authors who have addressed women's oppression, challenged traditional gender roles, and advocated women's social, political and economic equality in "imaginative" rather than theoretical ways. Many are widely recognized; others such as Katherine Burdekin or Paule Marshall are less familiar but reclaimed by feminist scholars....Author entries include biographical information, a bibliography, internal cross-references, and, in a feature that distinguishes this volume from similar resources, extensive summary interpretations of at least one major work, designed to "entice readership." A selection of 22 informative thematic entries, from "Abolition" and "" to "Spirituality," "Silence and Voice," and "Woman Question," draw from relevant writers and augment the usefulness of the volume. The book is intended for undergraduate, high school, and general readers. Highly recommended. Public and academic libraries."-Choice"A good reference book for the public library and a beautiful gift for anyone."-Reference s"[W]hitson succeeds in bringing together a great deal of information from a variety of sources for audiences from high school to undergraduate. Recommended for high school and college libraries."-Library Journal"[T]his is a handy introduction to some key feminist writers. Readable and accesible, Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature is a worthwhile purchase for public, high-school, and undergraduate collections."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin"Meant for high school and undergraduate students as well as the general reader, the one-volume Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature provides basic introductory information on about seventy primarily English and American feminist poets and novelists, plus a few world authors likely to be included in a class on feminist literature."-Feminist Collections"[C]ontains not just the usual biographical sketch and outline of major works, but an interpretative summary of each author along with more general essays on feminist-related topics. Add cross-references and background along with biographical references and you have a reference not just for college-level students, but many a high school reader."-MBR Bookwatch"Whitson succeeds in bringing together a great deal of information from a variety of sources for audiences from high school to undergraduate. Recommended for high school and college libraries."-Library Journal"This is a handy introduction to some key feminist writers. Readable and accesible, Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature is a worthwhile purchase for public, high-school, and undergraduate collections."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin"Contains not just the usual biographical sketch and outline of major works, but an interpretative summary of each author along with more general essays on feminist-related topics. Add cross-references and background along with biographical references and you have a reference not just for college-level students, but many a high school reader."-MBR Bookwatch?A good reference book for the public library and a beautiful gift for

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