



The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. B: The Sixteenth Century & The Early Seventeenth Century

M.H. Abrams (Founding Editor) , Stephen Greenblatt (General Editor) , Carol T. Christ (Editor) , Alfred David (Editor) , Barbara Kiefer Lewalski (Editor) , Lawrence Lipking (Editor) , George M. Logan (Editor) , Deidre Shauna Lynch (Editor) , more... Katharine Eisaman Maus (Editor) , James Noggle (Editor) , Jahan Ramazani (Editor) , Catherine Robson (Editor) , James Simpson (Editor) , Jon Stallworthy (Editor) , Jack Stillinger (Editor) ...less

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From Reader Review The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. B: The Sixteenth Century & The Early Seventeenth Century for online ebook

Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says

This has a lot of interesting history of the period, as well as an introduction to the different genres and writers.

Not something I would have read right now if I didn't have to read it for class, however, the Norton Anthologies never disappoint me.

Kaleigh says

Thomas Carew
Samuel Daniel
John Donne
Michael Drayton
George Herbert
Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
Ben Jonson
Andrew Marvell
John Milton
William Shakespeare
Sir Philip Sidney
Edmund Spenser
Izaak Walton
Mary Wroth
Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder

Sandra Hernandez says

Though I confess I have not read each poem and last story, the book itself is as guiding as the bible. It is full of morals, theories, teachings, laughter (unlike the bible), and truths. These stories are a challenge, a puzzle, a maze and when complete, a break through!

Vernon Ray says

Good selection, the best part was the seriously large section on Milton. Areopoegetica was awesome. (It loses a star out of principal, I was forced to buy this book and forced to read it. Perhaps I'll revisit later.)

Other highlights: Robert Herrick's poetry, Ben Johnson's Volpone, The Duchess of Malafi. I know there are others but these are the ones off the top of my head.

Phillip says

Love, love, love the Norton Anthologies. I've already reviewed Volume A, and most of the positive stuff I said is still true of this anthology. The introductory materials are good, and the selection of texts presented is comprehensive.

One thing I'm not 100% happy about is the division within the book. There are two broad period overviews, one the the Tudor period and one to the Stuart period and Protectorate. While I get the rationale for drawing a dividing line at 1603, the division within the text suggests more of a break than a slight transition. I'd say that the division between Charles I and the Protectorate is probably more stark than the shift from Bess to James I, but I suppose it would be too cumbersome to divide things up any other way.

Paras2 says

well, saying that I'm finished with this book is a total lie 'cause well, about 3000 pages, who can be done with it... but for my first reading, I read all the introductions but not the main texts, so... to be continued...

1st reading, so many more to come

Curtis says

I enjoyed Doctor Fastus.

Rachel Matsuoka says

Unpopular opinion: Canon = another word for overrated.

But the editing team did a great job with the writers' biographies and introductions.

Alice says

As with Volume A, The Norton Anthology of English Literature is a comprehensive collection of mid century English literature.

Truly the only unfortunate thing about it is the size: it is horrendous to carry around!

Robin says

I like this series of textbooks. Each section has a clear, concise introduction to different aspects of that theme. It provides brief, informative biographies on each author. It includes a wide variety of authors and poets to choose from. There is no way you could cover everything in this book in one semester. It has wonderful footnotes to help clarify archaic words and phrases as well. All this is presented without any kind of opinion or critique, leaving the passages open for debate or personal interpretation. I really enjoyed it.

leslie hamod says

Excellent! A collection of works from some of the finest of British writers in the 1600-1700's. Great taste of everything. Something for everyone. My great hulking two volume masterpiece will die a slow death of over use in my home, in my book callused hands. It will keep me in some of the best literature of that time for all my life. It will be lovingly restored and placed in my oldest son's book loving hands. What can I say, I have found my true love and he is a masterpiece of a giant!

Jessica says

All in all, this is a great collection. The variety is wide, with a large number of different topics covered. The notes are helpful, and I can't criticise this book as an introduction to literature of the Renaissance period. The contents are, obviously, limited, and I dislike Norton's editorial process of altering texts written in English English to American spellings - I'd rather read what Shakespeare wrote than what some moronic American editor misspelt. American English is, obviously, appropriate for texts written in American English. American English hadn't been invented when these texts were written.

Diana says

Textbook for my British Literature class. If you would like a good overview of literature from the UK, during this time period it's a good book to start out with. Some very well known authors and some that you many not know the name of but will recognize the poem or story.

Christian Brown says

If you like English Literature, then invest in these works. Between Volumes 1 and 2, it covers all major works from the dawn of time to modern writers. It's got just about everything you'd ever want or need!

Erika Schoeps says

An absolute treasure trove of everything you need to read as a Literature major. I had an awesome time discussing everything in this book in class. If you're new to Literature, DON'T read it without a good professor to guide you through. I would've got nothing out of this without my great professor.
