

Pathfinder for English Department
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Purpose: Teachers sometimes need resources to supplement classroom texts and novels. This document is meant as a guide to the resources we have here in the library to aide in the many and various needs of teachers in all areas of the English department.

Directions for use appear in the line designated with a Roman numeral. No database for the school should require a password.

A word or two is underlined within the directions for each database that indicate *in general* terms the type of resources found in that database. Remember that many of these resources are vast and will contain much more than what is implied with this word or two. Sometimes in parenthesis you will find form me a word or two about the specific purpose for the database.

Carmel High School Databases

Available from MyCCS or the Carmel HS Media Center website.

- I. Inspire – Select “Literature” – Select “Bartleby.com: Great Books Online Website”
 - a. What it contains: Literature anthologies, poetry anthologies, inaugural addresses (From George Washington to Barack Obama) and grammar primers that date back to the early 1900’s. Reference includes quotations, World Fact Book, and Roget’s Thesaurus. The Bible, Confucius, Descartes, and Sigmund Freud to name just a few others. The Harvard Classics are contained here. From the website to describe the Harvard Classics Shelf, “The most comprehensive and well-researched anthology of all time comprises both the 50-volume “5-foot shelf of books” and the 20-volume Shelf of Fiction. Together they cover every major literary figure, philosopher, religion, folklore and historical subject through the twentieth century.”

- II. Inspire – Select “Biographies” – Select “Biography in Context”
 - a. What it contains: Vast collection of items searchable by name, occupation, nationality, birth date, and death place. When searching by something other than name, a list of names appears for a given term, like birth place = Indiana. Each person’s treatment contains any number of the following resources: reference, news, magazines, academic journals, primary sources, websites, videos, images, audio, and related topics. Expect to find anything here as it pertains to a given person. Items found using this database are cited with just a couple of clicks, and they can be shared, bookmarked, and emailed. The dictionary will define any word.

 - b. Teacher resources can be found under the “Resources” tab on the front page. Find “Teachers: Access FREE Lesson Plans” and select “click here.” From this page you will

be prompted to select a subject area, then a lesson plan, and finally a description of the lesson plan will appear. Click through to get the full lesson plan supplied to you.

- III. Inspire – Select “Business & Careers” – Select “Newspaper Source”
 - a. What it contains: From the Inspire description, “Provides cover-to-cover full text for 20 national (U.S.) & international newspapers, including *The Christian Science Monitor*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times* (London), *Toronto Star*, etc.”
- IV. Inspire – Select “Academic” – Select “Academic Search Premier” (Literature, Criticism)
 - a. What it contains: In a nutshell, 3,834 full text scholarly publications. Many of them will not necessarily pertain to you, but they would offer you a vast amount of research possibilities for your students. Keep in mind, though, that of the significant number of journals, about 450 of them pertain to literature alone. This is less a resource for pieces of literature and more about the history of literature, the analysis of authors, the critical perspectives, the collections (Early American, Biblical, Modern, etc). There is no shortage of recognizable and usable information for numerous areas of study.
 - b. How to narrow: You can use the search bar, or the advanced search, but I would like you to know that you can look at the list of publications available to you. Select “Publications” at the top of the page. Select “By subject & description” under the search bar. In the search bar, type “Literature.” Select any one of the journals listed here and begin to look through their offerings. You will begin to get an idea of the wealth of information contained here.
- V. Inspire – Select “Other database” – Select “Project Gutenberg”
 - a. What it contains: Full text of over 44,000 free ebooks. These are mostly classics.
- VI. Novelist (To find titles to match a need)
 - a. What it contains: Lists of books with descriptions. Books are divided into categories and genres, by fiction and non-fiction. There are book discussion guides, award winning lists, and help with meeting Common Core Standards. There are reviews for books, descriptions, and articles.
 - b. Applications: There are two very handy applications for this resource. One is the author read-alike. If you find a book that you are already covering, this resource will give you other books like that one. The second possibility is looking for books by subject or even general description. A user can type in “Japan 1930 women” and hit search to find books that match those parameters. Finally, there is a button that states, “How to Use NovelList.” That says it all.

VII. CHS Opposing View Points (Current Social Issues)

- a. What it contains: As the title of the product suggests, the user will find opposing viewpoints on hundreds of current social issues and newsworthy events worldwide. Similar to the Biography in Context database, this one offers featured viewpoints (a straightforward two-sided presentation of the topic at hand), newspaper, magazine, academic journals, reference, websites, videos, images, and audio.
- b. Applications: Use this tool for any informational text need you might have if it is a current topic or issue. Especially useful in argument, persuasion, debate, or even for presenting background information before beginning a reading or topic. Lots of uses.

VIII. CHS Gale – Select “Literature Resources from Gale”

- a. From the database description page, “Research authors and their works, literary movements and genres. Search across several major Literature databases to find full text of literary works, journal articles, literature criticism, reviews, biographical information and overviews.”
- b. Can search by century. Choose “Primary Sources & Literary Works” to get only those resources with full text pieces.

IX. CHS Gale – Select “Litfinder”

- a. From the database description page, “Covering world literature and authors throughout history, LitFinder contains a wealth of literary works including over 150,000 full-text poems and 800,000+ poetry citations, as well as short stories, speeches, and plays.”
- b. It’s impressive. From the basic search page, I used “women” as my search term, chose “19th century” and “primary sources and literary works.”
 - i. There are 903 hits.
 - ii. When you limit it to “full-text” that number drops to 747.
 - iii. On the side bar to the left, there are limiters that include any number of topics like death, beauty, marriage, love, Bible, sonnets, and women’s rights.

Print Resources

We have a large selection of poetry, short stories (the least amount here), and plays available in the 800’s. Just walking by the shelves you can get a good idea of what we offer. We also have some interesting resources that will work for some of you, and a slew of tools that will help you locate a great title so that you can then use one of the other resources I list above to get it. Keep in mind there is a great collection of literary criticism. If there is a need for expanding any of these areas, I am more than happy to do so. All you have to do is make the suggestion!

I. “for Students” series

a. There is a Short Stories, Plays, Poetry, NonFiction Classics, and Novels “for Students” series that will help you locate what you need. Each of the aforementioned titles contains 24 or more volumes. It does not provide you the full text, but does give you the following for each selection. (This is in reference to the short story resource.)

- i. Name of story, author, and year of publication
- ii. Background for story
- iii. Author biography
- iv. Plot summary
- v. Character analysis
- vi. List of media adaptations
- vii. Themes
- viii. Topics for further study
- ix. Style
- x. Historical context
- xi. Compare and contrast
- xii. Critical overview
- xiii. Criticism
- xiv. What do I read next?
- xv. Works cited
- xvi. Further reading

b. This multi-volume set is indexed by subject/theme. Makes it easy and efficient to find a selection on a given topic, and it gives you all you need as an instructor for making quiz or discussion group.

II. *Understanding Literature through Close Reading: The American Novel* / Robert C. Evans (R 813.007 Ame)

a. You don’t know which passage of that famous work would work best for a close reading activity? Use this resource. It provides the passage, the context, and the discussion questions to guide the activity.

b. List of authors and a chronological list of novels is included for indices.

III. *The Annals of America* (R 973)

a. This is a multi-volume set that is a go-to for fabulous primary sources (letters, speeches, diaries, pictures, etc.) dealing with our nation’s history. There are some full text pieces of literature, like two of Anne Bradstreet’s poems, that are sprinkled throughout.

- b. Organized chronologically, it begins with *Select Letters of Christopher Columbus* and ends with *Atlas World Press Review* from 1976 that contains Foreign Press commentary on us in our bicentennial year. Each piece contains an introductory passage and each selection is cited.
 - c. It is an eclectic and varied representation that covers everything from the decline of the novel, to eating, to presidencies, to wars and terrorism, to unions, education, families, and children, to government, sports, defense, amendments, medical, impeachment and Watergate. And that's just sampling from one of the 20 volumes in this set. Highly recommended resource for primary sources.
- IV. Short Story Collection located in Pod 4 of the stacks and elsewhere, too!
- a. The library hosts a pretty extensive collection of short story collections. They range from mystery to young adult to classics to unique collections based on the art of a particular artist, for example.
 - b. Typing "short stories" into the search bar on Destiny's Follett will give you 357 hits. These books will be found throughout the library. Most of them will be in the short story collection, designated by the call number prefix "SC." Short story compilations might also be found in the fiction collection, or in the area they represent by their content. So short stories from soldiers might be found in the 900's as opposed to the short story collection or fiction. If you need help finding something, let me know and I will be happy to help.

Parting note: Come see me! I will help you find what is on the floor to fill a need you might have. If you are not good at using databases yet, set-up an appointment with me and I will walk you through it until you are comfortable. If you want me to order something, let me know what the need is and I will find the resources.