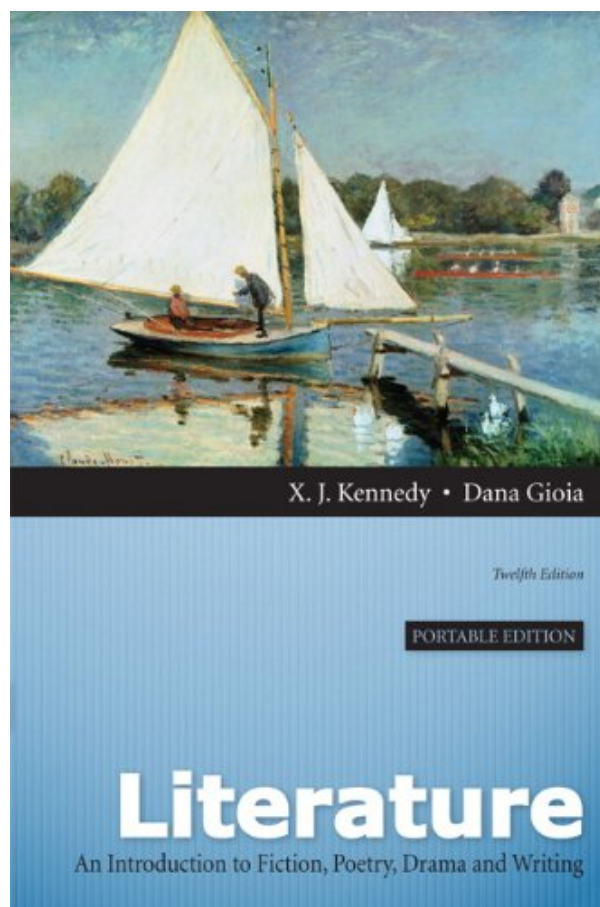


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- Sales Rank: #233611 in Books
- Brand: Longman
- Published on: 2012-01-20
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Format: Box set
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 2.10" w x 6.50" l, .70 pounds
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- 2132 pages

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This textbook gives deep coverage to the areas of short fiction, drama, and poetry. It contains an astounding amount of information. There are quite a number of full stories, poems, and plays--although I have not counted, I would say that the number could be approaching 1000.

The authors have done a great job in selecting writings to illustrate concepts. All of the selected writings are good, in the objective sense--they contain deep meaning. Of course, personal taste is subjective, and my experience was that some of the writings were thoroughly enjoyable, and none were quite intolerable.

There are also questions after pieces of literature to help the reader achieve more insight than they might of their own devices, small sections that offer tips on writing, light biographies and case studies of various authors. Throughout the course I have made lists of various authors I found to be particularly interesting, for further reading on my own time.

This singular textbook was, for the purpose of my class, equivalent to a boxed set which contains each of the treated topics in a separate book. The page numbers corresponded exactly to those of the books in the boxed set. I saved a good bit of money in purchasing this, and I much prefer a single textbook to a clumsy boxed set.

I like this textbook enough that now that my class is done, I am still considering whether to keep it for independent learning or sell it to recoup some of the cost.

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I bought this for my Introduction to Literature class, and I must say I did appreciate the book being broken down into four smaller books. I cannot imagine trying to handle the text if it had been all in one book. However, the thin pages are a huge downfall, as it makes them very easy to tear and almost impossible to highlight. The highlighting just bleeds right through the page. It's also hard to write with anything but pencil in the books for the same reason. I suspect some of you will cringe when thinking of highlighting or writing in your text, but it was required by my instructor and I personally find it helpful. I would say the pages are about the same thickness as what is in a typical Bible.

The literature in this collection is typical for an introductory class. I found most of it enjoyable and there was a nice variety. I would recommend being very careful if you are planning to sell this book back at the end of the semester as it's easy to damage.

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