

## SOURCES

of entries, a guide to related topics, a selected bibliography, and an index. The guide to related topics includes all the entries in the encyclopedia listed mostly under genres types and additionally by genre writers. Most of the biographical entries provide a brief synopsis of the author's life and a summary of one or two of their most famous or notable works.

*Student Encyclopedia of African Literature* will surely be compared to Routledge's *Encyclopedia of African Literature* (2003). Although the Routledge encyclopedia is definitely still considered the preeminent reference book on African literature, Greenwood has carved out a strong niche for itself by introducing a work that is more accessible for readers new to the subject. Additionally, the Routledge encyclopedia carries a hefty price tag, retailing for around \$350. One may consider using Greenwood's *Student Encyclopedia of African Literature* as an excellent starting point and consulting the Routledge encyclopedia for further examination and study on a research topic.—Sheila Devaney, *Data Services and Business Reference Librarian, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens*

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*Student's Encyclopedia of American Literary Characters.* By Matthew J. Bruccoli and Judith S. Baughman. Facts On File Library of American Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 4 vols. acid free \$340 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6498-4).

The selection criteria for the characters included in *Student's Encyclopedia of American Literary Characters* are those from plays, short stories, and novels that upper-grade students either know or should know, such as Guy Montag, No Name Woman, and Atticus Finch. Given the encyclopedia's attention to memorable characters, it is not surprising that many come from literary works that have become films. Somewhat shrewdly, the authors explain the intentional absence of many celebrated characters as the encyclopedia's way "to provide a testing place for its users—a facility to determine what they know, what they don't know, and what they want to know."

As a way to engage readers in the study of literature, *Student's Encyclopedia* provides a list of study questions after each analytical essay exploring a character. There are also brief lists of introductory secondary sources, such as casebooks, the Twayne series, and basic articles on key themes from scholarly journals. Although each essay is signed by the author, the creditability of *Student's Encyclopedia* as a tool for high school students would be stronger if the authors' affiliations had been provided. The writing is jargon-free and direct.

For quick reference and review of characters in traditional literature, users are better served by the more comprehensive staple reference works such as A. J. Sobczak's *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters* (Salem, 1998) and *Dictionary of American Literary Characters* (Facts On File, 2002) or more specialized sources such as *Dictionary of Real People and Places in Fiction* (Routledge, 1993). *Student's Encyclopedia* aims to encourage students to read more by examining vivid main characters.

*Student's Encyclopedia* could find a place in high school, public, and community college libraries as well as those hold-

ing curriculum collections. Students can draw on this set to help them find a theme to write about. However, because of its cost and need for supplements, libraries should weigh whether or not this is a source their students are inclined to use.—Nevin J. Mayer, *Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

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*Women, Science, and Myth: Gender Beliefs from Antiquity to the Present.* Ed. by Sue V. Rosser. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 335p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-1-59884-095-7).

Editor Sue Rosser states in her conclusion that the major reason for this book is "to understand the co-evolution of gender and science" (431). She has authored ten books on the subject of women and science and has successfully edited this current work, which can be used as either a reference tool or an introductory text. The title is somewhat misleading, suggesting that the work's focus will be scientific theories about the nature and abilities of women and differences between the sexes. Beliefs throughout the ages and the world are interspersed throughout the articles, but this is not the book's strong point. Its unique quality is its treatment of the role (and absence) of women in the field of science, set against sociohistoric backgrounds.

The book is divided into two major sections, chronological and thematic. The six articles in the chronological section highlight changes in time through historical eras and are international in scope. The format alternates between socio-historic accounts and biographical essays listing and describing influential women in the field of science. The thematic section is divided into six subcategories and contains articles on the individual disciplines of science, aspects of human behavior, institutions, discrimination, and philosophical and theoretical critiques concerning women and science. Each article concludes with substantial references and suggestions for further reading. A general bibliography is also provided at the book's end.

Several added features follow the articles. An appendix of statistical tables provides data on education and employment of women in the sciences, much of which appears to be statistics from the United States. The glossary is uneven and contains simplistic terms and phrases unnecessary for the level of reader at which this work is aimed. Examples are "belief," "lesbian," and "middle ages."

The editor's conclusion describes Phase Theory, defined in the glossary as a "developmental scheme that explains how change occurs in curriculum, institutions and personal awareness" (460). Rosser outlines the first model developed in 1984 for curriculum in history and her modification of the model for the sciences in 1993. Rosser then applies this theory to the volume as a whole. This is the most interesting and unique aspect of the work. Her conclusion is thought provoking and provides a mechanism for understanding the articles in theoretical perspective.

There are many publications available that separately treat biographies of women in the sciences, philosophy of gender