

# call to action in literature

## Call to Action in Literature: Inspiring Change Through Words

**Call to action in literature** is a fascinating concept that often goes unnoticed in everyday reading. While we typically associate calls to action with marketing or advertising, their presence in literature is just as powerful, if not more so. In stories, poems, essays, and plays, authors embed subtle or direct appeals that motivate readers toward reflection, awareness, or even tangible change. Understanding how a call to action functions in literature can deepen our appreciation for the written word and reveal the profound impact literature can have on society and individual lives.

## What Does Call to Action in Literature Mean?

At its core, a call to action (CTA) in literature prompts readers to do something beyond just consuming the text. This action could be emotional, intellectual, or behavioral. Unlike a commercial CTA that might urge you to buy a product or sign up for a newsletter, literary calls to action often encourage readers to think critically, challenge societal norms, or empathize with certain experiences.

For example, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* urged readers to confront the injustices of slavery, stirring abolitionist sentiment. Similarly, George Orwell's *1984* nudges readers to question government surveillance and authoritarianism. These are not just stories; they are invitations to engage with the world differently.

## How Authors Use Calls to Action in Literature

Writers employ various techniques to weave calls to action into their works effectively:

- **Direct Appeal**: Sometimes, authors explicitly address readers, asking them to consider or act on an issue. This can be found in essays or speeches embedded within narratives.
- **Symbolism and Allegory**: Through symbols and allegories, literature can subtly encourage readers to interpret messages that call for awareness or change.
- **Character Development**: When characters face moral dilemmas or injustice, their journeys can serve as a call for readers to reflect on their own values and choices.
- **Plot Outcomes**: The results of a story's conflict may implicitly suggest consequences of societal or personal action, pushing readers to ponder alternative realities.
- **Emotional Engagement**: Evoking empathy or outrage can motivate readers to take action in real life, whether through activism, dialogue, or self-improvement.

## The Role of Call to Action in Different Literary Genres

Calls to action manifest differently across genres, adapting to the form and audience.

## In Fiction

Fiction, especially novels and short stories, often uses characters and plots to embed calls to action. The reader becomes invested in the characters' struggles and victories, which can inspire real-world reflection.

Take Harper Lee's *\*To Kill a Mockingbird\**. The narrative invites readers to confront racial prejudice and injustice. Through Scout's innocent eyes and Atticus Finch's moral courage, readers are gently nudged to question their own biases and the society around them.

## In Poetry

Poetry's condensed and evocative nature makes it an ideal medium for powerful calls to action. Poets use imagery, metaphor, rhythm, and tone to stir emotions and provoke thought.

Consider Maya Angelou's poem *\*Still I Rise\**, which is an empowering call to resilience and dignity in the face of oppression. The poem's rhythm and repeated affirmations motivate readers to embrace strength and self-respect.

## In Drama and Plays

Dramatic works often confront social issues head-on, presenting conflicts and dialogues that urge audiences to consider ethical and societal questions. Plays performed on stage add a communal experience, amplifying the call to action.

Arthur Miller's *\*The Crucible\**, for instance, uses the Salem witch trials as a metaphor for McCarthyism, urging audiences to be wary of mass hysteria and unjust persecution.

## Why Calls to Action Matter in Literature

Literature has long played a role in shaping culture and inspiring change. The call to action within literary works serves several important purposes:

- **\*\*Encourages Critical Thinking\*\***: By challenging readers to question norms and assumptions, literature fosters deeper intellectual engagement.
- **\*\*Promotes Empathy and Understanding\*\***: Experiencing life through diverse characters' eyes cultivates compassion and social awareness.
- **\*\*Preserves Historical and Cultural Memory\*\***: Calls to action can keep important social issues alive in public consciousness.
- **\*\*Motivates Social and Political Change\*\***: Throughout history, literature with powerful calls to action has spurred movements for justice and reform.
- **\*\*Enhances Personal Growth\*\***: Readers may be inspired to reflect on their own lives and pursue self-improvement.

## Examples of Iconic Calls to Action in Literature

- **"I Have a Dream"** by Martin Luther King Jr. (Speech/Literary Text): A moving plea for racial equality and justice.
- **Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring***: A clarion call to environmental consciousness and protection.
- **Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart***: Invites readers to reconsider colonial narratives and appreciate African cultures.

## How to Identify a Call to Action in Literature

Recognizing a call to action involves attentive reading and thinking about the author's intent.

- Look for passages where the author explicitly addresses the reader or characters urge change.
- Notice recurring themes or motifs around justice, morality, or social issues.
- Pay attention to emotional tones—does the text evoke anger, hope, or urgency?
- Reflect on the ending—does it suggest a lesson or a path forward?
- Consider the historical and cultural context of the work.

## Tips for Writers: Crafting Effective Calls to Action in Literary Works

If you're an aspiring writer wanting to integrate a meaningful call to action into your work, here are some practical tips:

1. **Be Authentic**: Your call to action should arise naturally from the story or poem, not feel forced or preachy.
2. **Engage Emotionally**: Use vivid imagery and relatable characters to connect with readers' feelings.
3. **Offer Insight, Not Just Instructions**: Encourage reflection rather than just telling readers what to do.
4. **Use Subtlety When Appropriate**: Sometimes an indirect call to action can be more powerful, letting readers arrive at conclusions themselves.
5. **Know Your Audience**: Tailor the message to resonate with those you want to reach, balancing complexity and clarity.

## Call to Action as a Literary Device and Its Impact on Readers

Incorporating a call to action transforms literature from passive entertainment into an active dialogue between author and reader. It invites us to not only witness stories but to step beyond them, influencing how we see the world and our role within it.

This literary device can be a catalyst for social awareness, cultural dialogue, and personal empowerment. When readers feel moved by a narrative's call to action, they carry its message forward, becoming agents of change in their communities.

In this way, literature connects us across time and space, reminding us that words can inspire action, and action can change the world.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a call to action in literature?

A call to action in literature is a statement designed to prompt the reader to take a specific action or adopt a particular viewpoint, often used in persuasive writing or speeches.

### How does a call to action enhance persuasive writing?

A call to action enhances persuasive writing by clearly directing the audience toward the desired response, making the message more impactful and motivating readers to act.

### Can a call to action be subtle in literary works?

Yes, a call to action can be subtle in literary works, woven into the narrative or dialogue to encourage readers to reflect or change their perspective without overt commands.

### What are common examples of calls to action in literature?

Common examples include urging readers to support a cause, change behavior, reconsider beliefs, or engage in social or political activism through direct appeals or emotional storytelling.

### Why is a call to action important in social and political literature?

A call to action is important in social and political literature because it mobilizes readers to participate in movements, raise awareness, or contribute to change, making the literature more than just informative but also transformative.

## Additional Resources

Call to Action in Literature: An Analytical Exploration of Its Role and Impact

**call to action in literature** serves as a pivotal element that bridges the gap between narrative engagement and reader response. While commonly associated with marketing and advertising, the concept of a call to action (CTA) in literature transcends commercial usage, embedding itself within storytelling, thematic development, and reader interaction. This article explores the multifaceted nature of calls to action in literary works, examining how authors employ this device to provoke thought, inspire change, or drive narrative momentum.

# Understanding Call to Action in Literature

At its core, a call to action in literature functions as an intentional prompt within a text that encourages readers to engage beyond passive consumption. Unlike conventional marketing CTAs that urge immediate consumer behavior—such as purchasing or subscribing—literary CTAs often aim to evoke introspection, moral consideration, or social activism. This subtle yet powerful mechanism shapes how stories influence readers' perceptions and, in some cases, their real-world actions.

The presence of a call to action in literature can be explicit or implicit. Explicit calls often appear in persuasive essays, political speeches, or activist literature, where the author directly appeals to the audience to undertake specific actions. Conversely, implicit calls are woven into narrative arcs, character decisions, or thematic resolutions, leaving readers to interpret and internalize the message. Both forms rely heavily on the author's skill in crafting compelling content that resonates emotionally and intellectually.

## Historical Context and Evolution

Historically, literature has long been a vehicle for social commentary and change. From the didactic fables of antiquity to the revolutionary manifestos of the modern era, calls to action have been integral in mobilizing public sentiment. For example, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *\*Uncle Tom's Cabin\** (1852) is renowned for its implicit call to action against slavery, galvanizing abolitionist movements. Similarly, George Orwell's *\*1984\** rallies readers to question authoritarianism and value individual freedoms.

Over time, the nature of calls to action in literature has evolved in response to shifting cultural landscapes and reader expectations. Contemporary authors often embed these prompts within complex narratives or ambiguous endings, fostering active interpretation rather than direct instruction. This evolution reflects broader trends in literary theory that prioritize reader agency and multiple meanings.

## Features and Functions of Literary Calls to Action

Identifying a call to action within a literary work requires understanding its distinguishing features and functions. Several key characteristics define how these elements operate:

- **Emotional Appeal:** Effective CTAs leverage emotional resonance, compelling readers through empathy, outrage, hope, or fear.
- **Ethical or Moral Imperatives:** Many literary calls to action challenge readers' values and encourage ethical reflection or behavior change.
- **Narrative Integration:** CTAs are seamlessly integrated into plot development, character arcs, or thematic motifs, ensuring they enhance rather than disrupt storytelling.
- **Ambiguity and Interpretation:** Unlike direct commands, literary CTAs often employ

ambiguity, inviting readers to engage critically and derive personal meaning.

The function of calls to action in literature extends beyond mere persuasion. They serve as catalysts for dialogue, platforms for marginalized voices, and instruments for cultural critique. Through these devices, literature transcends entertainment to become an agent of social influence.

## **Comparing Literary CTAs with Marketing Calls to Action**

While the term “call to action” predominates in marketing, the literary counterpart differs significantly in purpose and execution. Marketing CTAs are designed for immediacy and clarity, often using imperative verbs such as “buy now,” “sign up,” or “donate today.” Their success is measurable through conversion rates and sales metrics.

In contrast, call to action in literature prioritizes subtlety and lasting impact. The “conversion” sought is not transactional but transformational—altering reader perspectives or inspiring sustained engagement with social issues. Metrics for literary CTAs are inherently qualitative, reflected in cultural discourse, academic critique, or shifts in public consciousness.

## **Examples of Call to Action in Various Literary Genres**

The application of calls to action varies widely across genres, each harnessing unique techniques to motivate readers:

### **1. Political and Social Literature**

This genre features some of the most overt calls to action. Works like Martin Luther King Jr.’s *Letter from Birmingham Jail* directly implore readers to reject complacency and pursue civil rights activism. Similarly, Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* catalyzed environmental awareness through compelling scientific narrative and urgent appeals.

### **2. Fiction and Narrative Literature**

Fiction often employs calls to action through character development and plot resolution. For instance, Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* confronts historical trauma and implicitly urges recognition and reconciliation with the past. The call to action here is not explicit but deeply embedded in the emotional and symbolic layers of the story.

### **3. Poetry and Dramatic Works**

Poetry and drama frequently utilize repetition, rhythm, and direct address to engage audiences.

Langston Hughes' poems, for example, contain rhythmic calls urging racial equality and cultural pride. In drama, characters' soliloquies or climactic speeches may serve as in-text CTAs, galvanizing both fictional audiences and real readers.

## Strategic Use of Call to Action in Literary Craft

Authors employ various strategies to maximize the effectiveness of calls to action in literature:

- **Character Identification:** Readers are more likely to respond when CTAs are connected to relatable or inspirational characters.
- **Juxtaposition:** Contrasting hope and despair or justice and injustice heightens the urgency of the call.
- **Symbolism and Imagery:** Vivid symbols reinforce the message and linger in readers' minds.
- **Open-Ended Narratives:** Ambiguous conclusions invite readers to imagine possibilities and consider their role in influencing outcomes.

These techniques underscore the complexity of integrating calls to action within artistic frameworks without compromising narrative integrity.

## The Role of Reader Response

A crucial aspect of call to action in literature lies in the reader's role. Reader-response theory posits that meaning is co-created between text and audience. Therefore, the success of a literary CTA depends on how effectively it activates readers' critical thinking and emotional engagement.

The variability of reader backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs means that a single call to action can generate diverse interpretations and reactions. This diversity highlights both the power and challenge of employing CTAs in literature—to inspire action while respecting individual autonomy.

## Challenges and Critiques

While calls to action can enrich literature, they also pose challenges. Overly didactic or heavy-handed appeals risk alienating readers and undermining artistic subtlety. Critics argue that explicit messaging may reduce narrative complexity, turning a work into propaganda rather than art.

Balancing the persuasive intent with aesthetic quality requires nuanced craftsmanship. Authors must navigate between inspiring change and maintaining literary merit, a tension that continues to provoke debate among scholars and practitioners.

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In examining the role of call to action in literature, it becomes evident that this device is a nuanced and dynamic tool that authors use to engage readers beyond the text. Whether through direct appeals or embedded motifs, CTAs in literary works challenge readers to reflect, empathize, and sometimes mobilize. The interplay between narrative artistry and persuasive intent enriches both the reading experience and the broader cultural discourse, underscoring literature's enduring capacity to influence minds and societies.

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**call to action in literature: Breathing No More: Unveiling Air's Story in Literature**

Nichole Glover, 2025-03-20 In this book, we delve into the fascinating realm of literature and explore a topic that affects us all: air pollution. We uncover the intriguing ways in which this environmental issue has been portrayed in various literary works over the years. Through an examination of classic novels, poetry, and contemporary writings, we delve deep into the ominous presence of polluted air and its impact on characters, settings, and themes. With a thought-provoking approach, we analyze the ways in which authors highlight the consequences of air pollution, both on the natural world and human lives. Join us on this literary journey as we uncover the powerful narratives that breathe life into the topic of air pollution and explore the profound connections between literature and our shared environment.

**call to action in literature: Ultimate Guide to Business Writing** Julian Maynard-Smith, 2021-03-15 The Ultimate Guide to Business Writing is a comprehensive guide on how to write any kind of business document. Written clearly in an engaging voice, it explains in depth the whole process: from determining objectives to establishing readers' needs, conducting research, outlining, and designing a template; to writing the first draft; to editing for meaning, accuracy, concision, style and emotional impact; to creating glossaries and indices; to proofreading and working with reviewers. The book also explains how to exploit the psychology of perception and motivation, collaborate effectively with business colleagues, manage documents holistically across an organisation, and deal with the other everyday practicalities of managing knowledge in a corporate environment. Every section of the book is packed with questions to stimulate thinking and generate meaningful answers, and dozens of examples of what works and why. The book's also rich in practical examples drawn from real life, anecdotes, humour, and visual aids. But the advice isn't just practical and anecdotal: it's also rigorously supported by scientific evidence from notable linguists and psychologists such as Steven Pinker, Daniel Goleman and Yellowlees Douglas. And anyone keen to explore further will benefit from the bibliography and links to videos and other online resources. The book is ideal not just for professional business writers, such as editors, technical writers, copywriters and creative directors; it's also suitable for anyone whose job requires them to write, whether it's something as simple as an email or as complex as a set of policies or a handbook.

**call to action in literature: Mapping Comprehensive Units to the ELA Common Core Standards, K-5** Kathy Tuchman Glass, 2012-04-26 Consultant and former teacher Glass helps K-5



teachers make sense of the new Common Core State Standards in English language arts (ELA) and presents numerous classroom activities, differentiation ideas, and rubrics. She introduces a process for developing a unit of study using the ELA Common Core Standards, and includes a template with each key component explained in detail. There is also a lesson design template and sample lessons using the template. The website provides reproducibles for classroom use. Annotation ©2012 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com).

**call to action in literature:** Diverse Bookshelf: Using Literature to Teach Empathy, Culture, and Social Awareness Silas Mary, 2025-01-30 Books have the power to shape a child's worldview and understanding of others. Diverse Bookshelf helps parents use literature as a tool to teach empathy, cultural awareness, and social responsibility. This book provides a curated list of diverse books for children of all ages, offering recommendations that reflect different cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Learn how to use stories to introduce your children to concepts like inclusivity, justice, and compassion, and to encourage open dialogue about important social issues. In addition to book recommendations, Diverse Bookshelf also provides practical advice on how to discuss the themes and lessons from these books with your children. This book helps parents create opportunities for meaningful conversations that encourage empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the world. By integrating diverse literature into your child's reading habits, you help them grow into compassionate, socially aware individuals who value diversity and respect.

**call to action in literature:** Literature and Politics in the Nineteenth Century John Lucas, 2016-07-15 The intention of this collection of essays, first published in 1971, is to explore the political aspects of some nineteenth century English writers. Under the influence of the great revolutionary upheavals of the period almost all its most important writers were involved, explicitly or otherwise, in political ideas. This is an exploratory volume, and will be of absorbing interest to anyone studying the interaction between literature and ideas in the nineteenth century.

**call to action in literature:** Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom Royal Society of Literature (Great Britain), 1898

**call to action in literature:** The Investment Writing Handbook Assaf Kedem, 2018-02-23 The writing bible for financial professionals The Investment Writing Handbook provides practical, accessible guidance for crafting more effective investor communications. Written by an award-winning writer, editor, and speechwriter, this book explains the principles and conventions that help writing achieve its purpose; whether you need to inform, educate, persuade, or motivate, you'll become better-equipped to develop a broad range of communications and literature for investor consumption. Examples from real-world financial institutions illustrate expert execution, while explanations and advice targeted specifically toward investor relations give you the help you need quickly. From white papers and investment commentary to RFPs, product literature, and beyond, this book is the financial writer's bible that you should keep within arm's reach. Investment writing is one of the primary influences on investors' attitudes. It educates, informs decisions, shapes opinions, and drives behavior—so shouldn't it be expertly-crafted to achieve its intended goal? This book explains the tricks of the trade to help you get your message across. Understand the principles of effective investor communication Master the conventions of informative and persuasive writing Examine well-written sample documents from real-world institutions Improve research papers, presentations, investor letters, marketing literature, and more Virtually all firms with investors as clients need to communicate to them regularly, but few financial professionals receive formal training in investor communications. When investors' opinions, attitudes, and actions determine the health of your company, it is vitally important that these communications not be left to chance. The Investment Writing Handbook provides essential guidance and clear explanations to help you transform your communication strategy, execution, and results.

**call to action in literature:** Journey Through the Spanish Literary Realm Pasquale De Marco, 2025-03-03 Journey Through the Spanish Literary Realm is an immersive exploration of the rich and diverse tapestry of Spanish literature, inviting readers to embark on a captivating voyage through the written word. This comprehensive guide unveils the beauty, complexity, and profound

impact of Spanish literary masterpieces, offering a deeper understanding of the human condition, cultural identity, and the intricate workings of society. Delving into the depths of Spanish literature, readers encounter a constellation of renowned authors who have shaped the literary landscape. From the enduring legacy of Miguel de Cervantes to the contemporary brilliance of Isabel Allende, this book celebrates the contributions of literary giants whose works have left an indelible mark on the world. Beyond individual authors, *Journey Through the Spanish Literary Realm* delves into the myriad genres and forms that Spanish literature encompasses. Readers traverse the enchanting world of short stories, unravel the complexities of poetry, and delve into the dramatic intensity of plays and theatrical performances. They explore the power of essays and memoirs to provide personal reflections and social commentary, and witness the impact of journalism in shaping public opinion and fostering social change. This exploration of Spanish literature extends beyond mere academic pursuit; it is an invitation to engage with the human experience itself. Readers encounter universal themes that resonate across cultures and time, such as the search for identity and belonging, the complexities of love and loss, the struggles for social justice and equality, and the existential quest for meaning. Through the lens of Spanish literature, these themes offer profound insights into the challenges and triumphs that we all face. Furthermore, *Journey Through the Spanish Literary Realm* examines the cultural and historical contexts that have shaped Spanish literature. Readers gain an understanding of how history, politics, and social movements have influenced literary works, shaping the narratives, characters, and themes explored by authors. This book explores the interplay between literature and society, recognizing literature's ability to reflect, critique, and shape the world around us. Enriching the reading experience, this book provides comprehensive analysis and insightful commentary on Spanish literary works, unveiling hidden meanings, exploring symbolism and allegory, and dissecting narrative structure and character development. Readers are equipped with the tools to engage critically with literary texts, appreciate their nuances, and derive deeper meaning from them. If you like this book, write a review!

**call to action in literature: Introduction to Korea** Gilad James, PhD, Korea is a fascinating country located in East Asia, divided into two distinct regions: North Korea and South Korea. Korea has a long and complex history, with its civilization starting around 1392 when the Joseon Dynasty was founded. For several centuries, Korea's strategic location has made it the sight of several invasions and colonization attempts, including Japan's colonial rule over Korea from 1910 to 1945. The Korean War, which took place from 1950 to 1953, also impacted the Korean people, resulting in separation of North and South Korea. Despite a challenging past and political differences, South Korea has become a significant economic powerhouse and an entertainment hub, while North Korea remains a secretive and repressive state. South Korea, also known as the Republic of Korea (ROK), is a dynamic and modern country that is home to numerous corporations, including Samsung and LG. South Korea has undergone significant economic growth, and it has become one of the world's leading economies. Yet despite its economic success, South Korea is also home to some of the most unique cultures, including distinctive cuisine, traditional music, and festivals. South Korea is also famous for its entertainment industry, including music (K-pop), television dramas (K-dramas), and movies. North Korea is an enigma, rarely seen or heard about beyond government propaganda. It is led by the Kim dynasty and maintains strict control over its citizens. Over the years, North Korea has become famous for its nuclear program and human rights abuses, making it a topic of international concern. Despite their differences, both North and South Korea have an intricate and fascinating history and culture that continues to captivate the world.

**call to action in literature: English Language Through Literature (For University of Delhi)** Neerja Deswal & Pooja Khanna, *English Language Through Literature* is specifically composed keeping in mind the needs of the first and second semester students of English Core who have scored 80 percent and above in English in Class XII. This student-centric book has been designed to offer complete clarity on concepts and topics which are part of the syllabus. The aim is to sharpen the reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar and vocabulary-building skills through various activities and exercises, thereby building confidence of mastering the language. With minimal

textual emphasis and optimal use of practical exercises, an effort has been made to make learning a pleasure for students. In student-friendly language, the book caters to young readers looking for innovative and interactive material in English.

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**call to action in literature:** *Boricua Literature* Lisa Sánchez-González, 2001 Since the invasion and colonization of Puerto Rico in 1898, all Puerto Ricans are both American citizens and colonial subjects by birth according to international law. Over a third of this population currently lives in the continental U.S. forming one of the nation's most significant minority communities. Yet no complete study of mainland Puerto Rican—or Boricua—literature has been written. Until now. *Boricua Literature* is the first literary history of the Puerto Rican colonial diaspora. The result of a decade of research in archives and special collections in the Caribbean and in the U.S., Lisa Sánchez González argues that the writing of the Puerto Rican diaspora should be considered an integral field of study. Covering 100 years of Boricua literary history, each chapter looks at the single writer or group of writers who are most emblematic of their respective generation, from William Carlos Williams and Arturo Schomburg, to latina feminism and salsa music. The story of an American community of color, *Boricua Literature* is also about contemporary critical race and gender studies. Unlike virtually all studies concerning mainland Puerto Rican writing, Lisa Sánchez González is less concerned with cultural identity than with unearthing a substantive cultural intellectual history. The first explicitly literary historical analysis of Boricua Literature, this definitive study proposes a new and discreet area of literary historical research in American studies.

**call to action in literature:** *Horror Literature and Dark Fantasy* Mark A. Fabrizio, 2018-05-16 *Horror Literature and Dark Fantasy: Challenging Genres* is a collection of scholarly essays intended to address the parent whose unreasoning opposition to horror entails its removal from a school curriculum, the school administrator who sees little or no redeeming literary value in horror, and the teacher who wants to use horror to teach critical literacy skills but does not know how to do so effectively. The essays herein are intended to offer opportunities for teachers in secondary schools and higher education to enrich their classes through a non-canonical approach to literary study. This

book is a deliberate attempt to enlarge the conversation surrounding works of horror and argue for their inclusion into school curricula to teach students critical literacy skills.

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**call to action in literature:** *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* Ato Quayson, Ankhi Mukherjee, 2023-11-09 George Floyd's death on May 25th 2020 marked a watershed in reactions to anti-Black racism in the United States and elsewhere. Intense demonstrations around the world followed. Within literary studies, the demonstrations accelerated the scrutiny of the literary curriculum, the need to diversify the curriculum, and the need to incorporate more Black writers. *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* is a major collection that aims to address these issues from a global perspective. An international team of leading scholars illustrate the necessity and advantages of reform from specific decolonial perspectives, with evidence-based arguments from classroom contexts, as well as establishing new critical agendas. The significance of *Decolonizing the English Literary Curriculum* lies in the complete overhaul it proposes for the study of English literature. It reconnects English studies, the humanities, and the modern, international university to issues of racial and social justice. This book is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

**call to action in literature:** *American Literature in Transition, 1990-2000* Stephen J. Burn, 2017-12-28 Written in the shadow of the approaching millennium, American literature in the 1990s was beset by bleak announcements of the end of books, the end of postmodernism, and even the end of literature. Yet, as conservative critics marked the century's twilight hours by launching elegies for the conventional canon, American writers proved the continuing vitality of their literature by reinvigorating inherited forms, by adopting and adapting emerging technologies to narrative ends, and by finding new voices that had remained outside that canon for too long. By reading 1990s literature in a sequence of shifting contexts - from independent presses to the AIDS crisis, and from angelology to virtual reality - *American Literature in Transition, 1990-2000* provides the fullest map yet of the changing shape of a rich and diverse decade's literary production. It offers new perspectives on the period's well-known landmarks, Toni Morrison, Thomas Pynchon, David Foster Wallace, but also overdue recognition to writers such as Ana Castillo, Evan Dara, Steve Erickson, and Carole Maso.

**call to action in literature:** *Oil and Water* Andrea Miller, Shearon Roberts, Victoria Lapoe, 2014-04-18 Along the Gulf Coast, history is often referenced as pre-Katrina or post-Katrina. However, the natural disaster that appalled the world in 2005 has been joined by another catastrophe, this one man-made—the greatest environmental and maritime accident of all time, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. In less than five years, the Gulf Coast has experienced two colossal disasters, very different, yet very similar. And these two equally complex crises have resulted in a

steep learning curve for all, but especially the journalists covering these enduring stories. In *Oil and Water*, the authors explore the media-fed experiences, the visuals and narratives associated with both disasters. Katrina journalists have reluctantly had to transform into oil spill journalists. The authors look at this process of growth from the viewpoints not only of the journalists, but also of the public and of the scientific community. Through a detailed analysis of the journalists' content, the authors tackle significant questions. This book assesses the quality of journalism and the effects that quality may have on the public. The authors argue that regardless of the type of journalism involved or the immensity of the events covered, successful reportage still depends on the fundamentals of journalism and the importance of following these tenets consistently in a crisis atmosphere, especially when confronted with enduring crises that are just years apart.

**call to action in literature:** *The Palgrave Handbook of Reproductive Justice and Literature* Beth Widmaier Capo, Laura Lazzari, 2022-09-10 This handbook offers a collection of scholarly essays that analyze questions of reproductive justice throughout its cultural representation in global literature and film. It offers analysis of specific texts carefully situated in their evolving historical, economic, and cultural contexts. Reproductive justice is taken beyond the American setting in which the theory and movement began; chapters apply concepts to international realities and literatures from different countries and cultures by covering diverse genres of cultural production, including film, television, YouTube documentaries, drama, short story, novel, memoir, and self-help literature. Each chapter analyzes texts from within the framework of reproductive justice in an interdisciplinary way, including English, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, and German language, literature and culture, comparative literature, film, South Asian fiction, Canadian theatre, writing, gender studies, Deaf studies, disability studies, global health and medical humanities, and sociology. Academics, graduate students and advanced undergraduate students in Literature, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Cultural Studies, Motherhood Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Sociology, the Medical Humanities, Reproductive Justice, and Human Rights are the main audience of the volume.

**call to action in literature:** *Teaching Global Literature in Elementary Classrooms* Kelly K. Wissman, Maggie Naughton Burns, Krista Jiampetti, Heather O'Leary, Simeen Tabatabai, 2016-07-15 Demonstrating the power of teaching global literature from a critical literacy perspective, this book explores the ways that K-6 educators can infuse diverse texts into their classrooms and find support for their endeavours in teacher inquiry communities. Through carefully analyzed, ethnographically informed portraits of classroom life alternating with teachers' own accounts of their teaching and learning experiences, it demonstrates how students are moved to question, debate, and take action in response to global texts. This multi-vocal work both emerges from and responds to tensions and debates related to the purpose and practice of literature education in a time of Common Core State Standards.

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