This is the sixth edition of Backpack Literature, a specially condensed version of Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing. The primary aim of the book is to introduce college students to the appreciation and experience of literature in its major forms. The book also seeks to develop students’ abilities to think critically and to communicate effectively through writing.

All three editors of this volume are writers. We believe that textbooks should not only be informative and accurate but also lively, accessible, and engaging. Our intent has always been to create a book that students will read with enjoyment and which will inspire them to take their own writing more seriously.

Backpack Literature offers selections and apparatus especially suited for instructors teaching a one-quarter or one-semester introductory class. It includes the core selections of our larger Literature books and much of the pedagogical material, particularly in the area of student writing. The book offers an alternative to the more extensive selections and critical coverage in the larger editions of Literature. Our purpose is to provide the introductory student a smaller, more portable, less expensive book.

Backpack Literature tries to help readers develop sensitivity to language, culture, and identity to lead them beyond the boundaries of their own selves and see the world through the eyes of others. This book is built on our conviction that great literature can enrich and enlarge the lives it touches. The edition’s features are detailed below.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE SIXTH EDITION?

- **New chapter on international voices in fiction**—presenting powerful stories from Nigeria, Mexico, Columbia, China, Antigua, Egypt, and India.
- **New plays**—three new plays provide greater flexibility in studying diverse contemporary trends in a crowded curriculum. The new works include David Ives’s Sure Thing, Sharon E. Cooper’s Mistaken Identity, and Lorraine Hansberry’s Civil Rights-era classic A Raisin in the Sun.
Preface

- New writing assignments—new writing topics have been introduced in many chapters.
- Updated MLA Coverage of the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook—the Reference Guide for Citations has been expanded and updated to reflect the latest MLA guidelines.

KEY FEATURES OF BACKPACK LITERATURE

The new edition contains a wide and varied selection of works that both students and instructors have found appealing and accessible. These include:

- Diverse and exciting stories—49 stories from familiar classics to contemporary works from around the globe.
- Great poems old and new—235 poems, mixing traditional favorites with exciting contemporary work.
- A rich array of drama—14 plays and scenes from classical tragedy to Shakespeare to contemporary work by August Wilson.
- Exclusive conversations between editor Dana Gioia and celebrated fiction writer Amy Tan, former US Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, and beloved playwright David Ives—offer an insider's look into the importance of literature and reading in the lives of three modern masters.
- Illustrated version of William Shakespeare's Othello—includes production photos of key scenes.
- Audio version of Susan Glaspell's Trifles—specially created for this book.
- Complete writing coverage (detailed below).
- "Terms for Review" feature at the end of every major chapter—provides a simple study guide to go over key concepts and terms in each chapter.

COMPLETE WRITING COVERAGE

- Writing coverage in every major chapter—comprehensive introduction to composition and critical thinking, including easy-to-use checklists, exercises, and practical advice.
- Topics for writing in every major chapter—provide a rich source of ideas for writing papers.
- Dedicated chapters on composition process and research process—concise, step-by-step coverage of the writing and research processes, amply illustrated with student writing examples.
- Student writing—6 papers by students with annotations, plus prewriting exercises and rough drafts, provide credible examples of how to write about literature. Includes
  - Explication Papers
  - Analysis Papers
• Comparison/Contrast Paper
• Response Paper

TEXTS AND DATES

Every effort has been made to supply each selection in its most accurate text and (where necessary) in a lively, faithful translation. For the reader who wishes to know when a work was written, at the right of each title appears the date of its first publication in book form. If a work was composed much earlier than its first book publication, parentheses have been added around its date.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

For Students

Audio Production of Trifles

So many students today have limited experience attending live theater that we offer a complete audio version of our opening play, Susan Glaspell’s Trifles, which we use to teach the elements of drama. The audio version was produced especially for this edition by the celebrated L.A. Theatre Works. It includes an introduction and commentary by Dana Gioia.

Handbook of Literary Terms

Handbook of Literary Terms by X. J. Kennedy, Dana Gioia, and Mark Bauerlein is a user-friendly primer of more than 350 critical terms brought to life with literary examples, pronunciation guides, and scholarly yet accessible explanations. Aimed at undergraduates getting their first taste of serious literary study, the volume will help students engage with the humanities canon and become critical readers and writers ready to experience the insights and joys of great fiction, poetry, and drama.

For Instructors

Make more time for your students with instructor resources that offer effective learning assessments and classroom engagement. Pearson’s partnership with educators does not end with the delivery of course materials; Pearson is there with you on the first day of class and beyond. A dedicated team of local Pearson representatives will work with you to not only choose course materials but also integrate them into your class and assess their effectiveness. Our goal is your goal—to improve instruction with each semester.
Pearson is pleased to offer the following resource to qualified adopters of *Backpack Literature*, Sixth Edition. This supplement is available to download from the Instructor Resource Center (IRC). To register for access, please visit the IRC at www.pearson.com/us.

- **Instructor's Resource Manual** Create a comprehensive roadmap for teaching classroom, online, or hybrid courses. Designed for new and experienced instructors, the Instructor's Resource Manual includes learning objectives, lecture and discussion suggestions, activities for in or out of class, research activities, participation activities, and suggested readings, series, and films. Available on the IRC.

**THANKS**

The collaboration necessary to create this new edition goes far beyond the partnership of its three editors. *Backpack Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing* has once again been revised, corrected, and shaped by wisdom and advice from instructors who actually put it to the test—and also from a number who, in teaching literature, preferred other textbooks to it, but who generously criticized this book anyway and made suggestions for it. Deep thanks to the following individuals:

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X. J. K., D. G., and D. S.
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

X. J. KENNEDY, after graduation from Seton Hall and Columbia, became a journalist second class in the Navy (“Actually, I was pretty eighth class”). His poems, some published in the New Yorker, were first collected in Nude Descending a Staircase (1961). Since then he has published seven more collections, including a volume of new and selected poems in 2007, several widely adopted literature and writing textbooks, and seventeen books for children, including two novels. He has taught at Michigan, North Carolina (Greensboro), California (Irvine), Wellesley, Tufts, and Leeds. Cited in Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations and reprinted in some 200 anthologies, his verse has brought him a Guggenheim fellowship, a Lamont Award, a Los Angeles Times Book Prize, an award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, an Aiken-Taylor prize, and the Award for Poetry for Children from the National Council of Teachers of English. He lives in Peabody, Massachusetts.

DANA GIOIA is a poet, critic, and teacher. Born in Los Angeles of Italian and Mexican ancestry, he attended Stanford and Harvard before taking a detour into business. (“Not many poets have a Stanford M.B.A., thank goodness!”) After years of writing and reading late in the evenings after work, he quit a vice presidency to write and teach. He has published four collections of poetry, Daily Horoscope (1986), The Gods of Winter (1991), Interrogations at Noon (2001), which won the American Book Award, and Pity the Beautiful (2012); and three critical volumes, including Can Poetry Matter? (1992), an influential study of poetry’s place in contemporary America. Gioia has taught at Johns Hopkins, Sarah Lawrence, Wesleyan (Connecticut), Mercer, and Colorado College. From 2003 to 2009 he served as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. At the NEA he created the largest literary programs in federal history, including Shakespeare in American Communities and Poetry Out Loud, the national high school
poetry recitation contest. He also led the campaign to restore active literary reading by creating the Big Read, which helped reverse a quarter century of decline in reading in the United States. He is currently the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California.

(The surname Gioia is pronounced JOY-A. As some of you may have already guessed, gioia is the Italian word for “joy.”)

DAN STONE worked for many years as a program manager and documentary producer at the National Endowment for the Arts, during which time he wrote, recorded, and produced nearly thirty radio documentaries on classic American novels for the Big Read, interviewing more than 200 prominent writers, actors, artists, musicians, and public figures. While at the NEA, Stone helped create Poetry Out Loud, the popular national high school recitation contest, and he produced educational and audio programming for the initiatives Shakespeare in American Communities and NEA Jazz Masters. He studied poetry at Colorado College and received an MFA in fiction from Boston University, and he has taught middle school, high school, and college. With Dana Gioia, Stone edited Penguin’s 100 Great Poets of the English Language. His most recent book, How Money Became Dangerous, is about the modern evolution of Wall Street and the financial services industry. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of Radio Silence, a magazine of literature and rock ‘n’ roll. For City Arts & Lectures and NPR, he has conducted lengthy stage conversations with Bruce Springsteen, Patti Smith, George Saunders, and Elvis Costello. Stone owns an establishment near his home in Oakland, California, called North Light, which serves as a bookstore, record store, restaurant, and café.