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Salem Press Announces a New Revised Edition of *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*

In 1963 Salem Press presented *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters* in two volumes, a collection of more than 16,000 character descriptions from some 1,300 novels, plays, epics, and other classics of world literature, arranged alphabetically by title of work. The list of works from which these characters were selected came from the original *Masterplots* series, which provided plot summaries of the world's greatest literature. The *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters* offered readers the opportunity to become familiar with both famous and less well-known personalities from classic fiction: Major characters were presented in write-ups of 100-110 words; supporting and minor characters were described in fewer words, according to their importance.

Since the publication of the 1998 edition of *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters*, additional volumes of *Masterplots II* were released, and in 2010, a new edition of *Masterplots* was published, prompting this newest edition of *Cyclopedia of Literary Characters* in five volumes. It includes 3,500 works and more than 29,000 characters. Books by a given author that commonly are studied together are treated in a single article, allowing the user to study character development across the books.

Cyclopedia of Literary Characters comprises a collection of great names from fiction and drama, and familiar characters whose exploits have entertained countless generations of readers. In this title, major characters receive a substantial write-up in which an assessment of the character is given, a critical evaluation with regard to psychological motivation, development, possible flaws, and related matters. Identification and relationships are given for even the most minor characters.

Articles are arranged alphabetically by title of work. Each article starts with standard ready-reference top matter, including:

- Book title
- Foreign title if originally published in a language other than English
- Author's name
- Date of first publication (or first production for drama and first transcription for early works)
- Genre (novel or novels, novella, drama, poetry, short fiction)
- Locale
- Time of action

- Plot Type

The characters are arranged by order of importance within each article. Not every character that made an appearance in the works is represented; however, in most cases, users will find more characters than appeared in the list of “Principal Characters” found in the counterpart article from *Masterplots* or *Masterplots II*.

Pronunciation guides are provided in the front matter of each volume for foreign character names that are most likely to be mispronounced by an English-language speaker. Three indexes, found at the back of Volume 5, are designed to help the user more readily access the text. First is a complete **Title Index**, alphabetical by title, including author’s last name; second is a **Character Index**, listing more than 29,000 characters herein by their full name, including the name of the book they are from. The Character Index is a valuable aid in locating the author and work or works with which a particular character is associated; and third is an **Author Index** by last name, including the author’s works covered in this edition.

These character descriptions can be used alone to begin researching character development and motivation in a novel. They also can be used as a starting place for analyzing an epic play or novel and its author’s writing style and technique.

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