
Eighteen essays of art criticism cover early American portraiture and landscape painting, late-nineteenth-century masters Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins, and the work of such artists as James McNeill Whistler and Alfred Stieglitz. The Library of America presents the second of two volumes in its definitive Updike collection. Here are 84 classic stories that display the virtuosic command of character, dialogue, and sensual description that was Updike's signature. Based on new archival research, each story is presented in its final definitive form and in order of composition, established here for the first time. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for selected works by John Updike, two-time Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction in 1982 and 1991. Titles in this study guide include Rabbit Run and Rabbit Redux. As a prominent voice of literary realism for 1970s American fiction, Updike's Rabbit novels commented on the changing social and political hierarchies of late modernism in America's Eisenhower era. Moreover, Updike has been called a "maker of fables and parables," which can be seen through his use of symbolism and imagery. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Updike's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons they have stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As. The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research. A Study Guide for John Updike's "Toward the End of Time," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs. A Study Guide for John Updike's "Rabbit, Run," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

John Updike is one of the seminal American writers of the 20th century and one of the most prolific as well. His writing consistently reveals stylistic brilliance, and through his engagement with America's moral and spiritual problems, his works chronicle America's hopes and dreams, failures and disappointments. Though an enormously popular writer, the complexity and elegance of his works have elicited much scholarly attention. Through several hundred alphabetically arranged entries, this book provides an exceptional resource for both casual and serious readers. Whether seeking a novel summary, an authoritative analysis of subjects, elucidation of an allusion, or a point about Updike's life and manner of composition, the encyclopedia is indispensable. Extensive cross-referencing, numerous bibliographies, and a thorough index enhance its usefulness. John Updike is one of the most prolific and important American authors of the contemporary period, with an acclaimed body of work that spans half a century and is inspired by everything from American exceptionalism to American popular culture. This Companion joins together a distinguished international team of contributors to address both the major themes in Updike's writing as well as the sources of controversy that Updike's writing has often provoked. It traces the ways in which historical and cultural changes in the second half of the twentieth century have shaped not just Updike's reassessment of America's heritage, but his reassessment of the literary devices by which that legacy is best portrayed. With a chronology and bibliography of Updike's published writings, this is the only guide students and scholars of Updike will need to understand this extraordinary writer. In this wry novel of sentimental education and sexual pursuit, we follow Owen Mackenzie, a representative man of the author's generation, from cradle
to grave, and from bed to bed. His life and relationships are shaped by three villages, warm-lit communities that keep the darkness at bay from within and without. In Willow, Pennsylvania, the young Owen is transfixed by his first glimpses of female beauty. In Middle Falls, Connecticut, he marries, becomes a first-wave computer programmer, and discovers the very grownup pleasures of serial adultery. Finally, married for a second time, he retires with his memories, illusions, and fantasies to the somewhat geriatric community of Haskell's Crossing, Massachusetts. John Updike turns Owen's personal odyssey into a radiant, sensual fable of the seasons of a man's life—and of the getting of wisdom in America. Prolific in a variety of genres, John Updike is one of North America's premier men of letters, regularly producing novels, poetry, short fiction, and volumes of assorted prose. Without question, he is one of the most widely read contemporary American authors. Updike's elegant fiction on the tensions and tragedies of contemporary middle-class life have earned him numerous awards, including the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for his novel Rabbit is Rich. Updike is also a serious craftsman of the short story, with 10 collections and 200 short stories to his credit. His stature as a writer of short fiction warrants close examination, particularly in light of the author's active contribution to the genre's current revitalization through formal experimentation and stylistic excellence. In John Updike: A Study of the Short Fiction, Robert M. Luscher focuses exclusively on Updike's short fiction. In this comprehensive treatment of all of Updike's short fiction, Luscher explores each of Updike's story collections separately and in approximate chronological order. Luscher adopts this traditional approach, because each collection has a dominant thematic focus and examines characters in a particular phase of development. Updike's short fiction captures the changing historical background, the shifting social mores, and the personal responses to the altered socio-cultural circumstances that have heightened spiritual uncertainty, social unrest, sexual freedom, and domestic tension. Each successive collection shows Updike experimenting with different techniques as his focus on American domestic life adjusts to accommodate new emphases. Luscher reveals how the particular form and techniques Updike employs are adapted to the materials. As Updike's emphasis on different phases of experience shifts, so does the manner in which he handles his subjects. Luscher's examination is amplified by Updike's own commentary on the art of fiction. He foregrounds Updike's remarks on writing and attitudes about his material, rather than the autobiographical content of his stories. Robert M. Luscher's well organized presentation, cogent use of existing scholarship, and persuasive insights are sure to make this a ground-breaking study of John Updike's short fiction. John Updike's first collection of nonfiction pieces, published in 1965 when the author was thirty-three, is a diverting and illuminating gambol through midcentury America and the writer's youth. It opens with a choice selection of parodies, casuals, and "Talk of the Town" reports, the fruits of Updike's boyish ambition to follow in the footsteps of Thurber and White. These jeux d'esprit are followed by "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu," an immortal account of Ted Williams's last at-bat in Fenway Park; "The Dogwood Tree," a Wordsworthian evocation of one Pennsylvania childhood; and five autobiographical essays and stories. Rounding out the volume are classic considerations of Nabokov, Salinger, Spark, Beckett, and others, the earliest efforts of the book reviewer who would go on to become, in The New York Times's estimation, "the pre-eminent critic of his generation." Updike called this collection "motley but not unshapely." Some would call it a classic of its kind. The winner of every major American literary prize, John Updike (1932-2009) was one of the most popular and prolific novelists of his time and a major cultural figure who traced the high point and fall of midcentury American self-confidence and energy. A superb stylist with sixty books to his credit, he brilliantly rendered the physical surfaces of the nation's life even as he revealed the intense longings beneath those surfaces. In Understanding John Updike, Frederic Svoboda elucidates the author's deep insights into the second half of the twentieth century as seen through the lives of ordinary men and women. He offers extended close readings of Updike's most significant works of fiction, templates through which his entire oeuvre may be understood. A small-town Pennsylvanian whose prodigious talent took him to Harvard, a staff position at the New Yorker, and ultimately a life in suburban Massachusetts, where the pace of his literary output never slowed, Updike was very much in the American cultural tradition. His series of Rabbit Angstrom novels strongly echo Sinclair Lewis's earlier explorations of middle America, while The Witches of Eastwick and related novels are variations on Nathaniel Hawthorne's nineteenth-century classic The Scarlet Letter. His number-one best-selling Couples examines what Time magazine called "the adulterous society" in the last year of the Kennedy administration, following the nation's fall from idealism into self-centeredness. Understanding John Updike will give both new readers and those already familiar with the author a firm grasp of his literary achievement. This outline of Updike's professional career highlights his importance in the life of the nation—not only as a novelist but also as a gifted essayist, reviewer, cultural critic, and poet. Presents a look at the work, career, and literary reputation of John Updike. By the age of twenty-eight, John Updike had already been published in the three major forms - novel, poem, and short story. For the next four decades his literary career would realize itself primarily in these forms. This book offers a portrait of the writer and his work."One of the most enduring and prolific American authors of the latter half of the twentieth century, John Updike has long been recognized by critics for his importance as a social commentator. Yet, John Updike and the Cold War is the first work to examine how Updike's views grew out of the defining context of American culture in his time - the Cold War. Quentin Miller argues that because Updike's career began as the Cold War was taking shape in the mid-1950s, the world he creates in his entire literary oeuvre - fiction, poetry, and nonfiction prose - reflects the optimism and the anxiety of that decade." - Jacket John Updike wrote about the lure of golf for five decades, from the first time he teed off at the age of twenty-five until his final rounds at the age of seventy-six. Golf Dreams collects the most memorable of his golf pieces, high-spirited evidence of his learning, playing, and living for the game. The camaraderie of golf, the perils of its present boom, how to relate to caddies, and how to manage short putts are among the topics he addresses, sometimes in lyrical essays, sometimes in light verse, sometimes in wickedly comic fiction. All thirty pieces have the lilt of a love song, and the crispness of a firm chip stiff to the pin. A Study Guide for John Updike's "The Slump," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for
Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

Prolific in a variety of genres, John Updike is one of North America's premier men of letters, regularly producing novels, poetry, short fiction, and volumes of assorted prose. Without question, he is one of the most widely read contemporary American authors. Updike's elegant fiction on the tensions and tragedies of contemporary middle-class life have earned him numerous awards, including the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for his novel Rabbit is Rich. Updike is also a serious craftsman of the short story, with 10 collections and 200 short stories to his credit. His stature as a writer of short fiction warrants close examination, particularly in light of the author's active contribution to the genre's current revitalization through formal experimentation and stylistic excellence. In John Updike: A Study of the Short Fiction, Robert M. Luscher focuses exclusively on Updike's short fiction. In this comprehensive treatment of all of Updike's short fiction, Luscher explores each of Updike's story collections separately and in approximate chronological order. Luscher adopts this traditional approach, because each collection has a dominant thematic focus and examines characters in a particular phase of development. Updike's short fiction captures the changing historical background, the shifting social mores, and the personal responses to the altered socio-cultural circumstances that have heightened spiritual uncertainty, social unrest, sexual freedom, and domestic tension. Each successive collection shows Updike experimenting with different techniques as his focus on American domestic life adjusts to accommodate new emphases. Luscher reveals how the particular form and techniques Updike employs are adapted to the materials. As Updike's emphasis on different phases of experience shifts, so does the manner in which he handles his subjects. Luscher's examination is amplified by Updike's own commentary on the art of fiction. He foregrounds Updike's remarks on writing and attitudes about his material, rather than the autobiographical content of his stories. Robert M. Luscher's well organized presentation, cogent use of existing scholarship, and persuasive insights are sure to make this a ground-breaking study of John Updike's short fiction. A posthumous anthology of the author's art writings includes his 2008 lecture "The Clarity of Things" as well as fourteen essays on Western art and the characterization of American art. A Study Guide for John Updike's "The Slump," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs. A Study Guide for John Updike's "Oliver's Evolution," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs. A critical analysis of Updike's stories, essays, poems, and reviews. Fifty-three individuals present a prismatic view of the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and his work through anecdote and insight. Interviews and essays from family, friends and associates reveal sides of the novelist perhaps unfamiliar to the public--the high school prankster, the golfer, the creator of bedtime stories, the charming ironic, the faithful correspondent with scholars, the devoted friend and the dedicated practitioner of his craft. The contributors include his first wife, Mary Pennington, and three of their children; high school and college friends; authors John Barth, Joyce Carol Oates and Nicholson Baker; journalists Terri Gross and Ann Goldstein; and scholars Jay Parini, William Pritchard, James Plath, and Adam Begley, Updike's biographer.