

## Lecture Bibliography

**Jordan Brower, “Written with the Movies in Mind”: Twentieth-Century American Literature and Transmedial Possibility, *Modern Language Quarterly*, 78: 2 (2017), pp. 243-273. (included in resource packs)**

Situates *Gatsby* within Fitzgerald’s career as a screenwriter, the increasingly popularity of film adaptations of books, and a new culture of authors selling screen rights. He argues that *Gatsby* shows Fitzgerald’s ambivalent relationship to the movie industry, as the novel both courts and frustrates the possibility of its own filmic existence, creating what Brower calls “transmedial possibility”. Too complex and lengthy for most A Level students, but has some useful close readings that could be extracted, and provides a fresh take on the novel.

**Sarah Churchwell, *Careless People: Murder, Mayhem and the Invention of the Great Gatsby*. London: Virago, 2013.**

A history of the writing of and inspirations behind *The Great Gatsby*. Useful for very specific contextual interpretations of some of the novel’s characters, settings and symbols. Written for a popular audience – engaging and student friendly, with Churchwell offering clear opinions on the text.

**Jim Cullen, *The American Dream; A Short History of an Idea that Shaped a Nation*. Oxford: OUP, 2003**

A cultural history of the American dream from Puritans to Hollywood. Not specifically on *The Great Gatsby* other than a short section in the conclusion, but introduction is good for encouraging students to think more critically and questioningly about the concept of the American Dream.

**Barbara Will, “Gatsby Redux”, *American Literary History*, 27: 2 (2015), pp. 342-350. (in resource pack)**

Actually a review of several recent books on *Gatsby*, this essay neatly sets out two competing interpretations of the text: as a novel strictly bound to its 1920s context, or as a novel that transcends its immediate context, and reaches for the mythic. Useful for showing alternative readings.

## Open Access Resources

*All of the below are free to access, download and copy at the links provided.*

### The Great Gatsby

#### **H.L. Mencken's review of *TGG* in the *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, 3 May 1925**

One of the great journalists of early twentieth-century America, Mencken gives a lukewarm review of *Gatsby* – calling it a “glorified anecdote”. Mencken reads the novel as torn between “Fitzgerald the stylist” and “Fitzgerald the social historian”, the former’s love of beauty removing the possibility of real social critique.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/books/ct-prj-great-gatsby-f-scott-fitzgerald-hl-mencken-20141010-story.html>

#### **Edwin Clark's review of *TGG* in the *New York Times*, 19 April 1925**

Calls *Gatsby* “a curious book, a mystical, glamorous story of today”, and suggests that Fitzgerald’s stylist “economy” compliments the story of excess.

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/00/12/24/specials/fitzgerald-gatsby.html>

### The Grapes of Wrath

#### **The Library of Congress Dust Bowl Resources**

A series of photographs and audio recordings documenting the lives of Dust Bowl migrants.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/dust-bowl-migration/>

#### **PBS Dust Bowl Resources**

Produced by the US Public Broadcasting company, this website has a series of videos and accompanying lesson plans on the dust bowl.

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/educators/lesson-plans/>

## **New York Times *Grapes of Wrath* Teaching Resources**

A fantastic collection of lesson plans, newspaper articles (on both contextual topics and Steinbeck himself), multimedia resources and articles linking *Grapes* to present day crises.

<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/19/teaching-the-grapes-of-wrath-with-the-new-york-times/>

**Lingo, M. "Forbidden Fruit: The Banning of The Grapes of Wrath in the Kern County Free Library." *Libraries & Culture*, vol. 38 no. 4, 2003, pp. 351-377. *Project MUSE*, [doi:10.1353/lac.2003.0069](https://doi.org/10.1353/lac.2003.0069)**

Open Access article that explores the contemporary reception of *The Grapes of Wrath* in California, within larger attitudes towards migrant workers.

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/48457/summary>

## A Streetcar Named Desire

**John S. Bak, "“Stanley Made Love to Her!- By Force!”: Blanche and the Evolution of a Rape". *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. 16:1 (2004), 69-97. Open Access:**

Bak argues that Williams saw Stanley's rape of Blanche as integral to the culmination of Blanche's interior battle between the "bird" and "cat" within her psyche: her emotional fragility and her sexual desire. Through early drafts, Bak traces how Williams developed Blanche's complex psychology, and made changes to the character of Stanley, drawing out his animalistic sexual aggression. The essay is also useful for extensive footnotes giving counter-interpretations of the rape, and the play as a whole.

<http://jadtjournal.org/past-issues/volume-16-issue-1-winter-2004/>.

**John S. Bak, "Criticism on *A Streetcar Named Desire*: A Bibliographic Survey, 1947-2003", *Cercles* 10 (2004), pp. 3-32**

A very useful summary of various critical approaches to Williams's play. Bibliography includes a list of useful websites.

<http://www.cercles.com/n10/bak.pdf>

**Jacqueline O'Connor, "From 'Home-Place' to the Asylum: Confining Spaces in *A Streetcar Named Desire*", *Cercles* 10 (2004), pp. 159-167**

O'Connor explores parallels between Stanley and Stella's apartment, and the asylum to which Blanche is led at the close of the play, and ways that this reading of the play might lead to certain acting choices.

<http://www.cercles.com/n10/oconnor.pdf>

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

**Robert Gross, "The Pleasures of Brick: Eros and the Gay Spectator in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*", *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. 9:1 (1997)**

Examines not only the portrayal of same sex desire in *Cat*, but also how the audience becomes involved in the production of desire within the play. Gross writes explicitly from the position of a gay male spectator, so this may be useful for reception.

[https://www.scribd.com/document/211027233/JADT-Vol9-n1-Winter1997-Sundgaard-Gross-Lin-Roarty-Stephens-PaWLEY#fullscreen&from\\_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/211027233/JADT-Vol9-n1-Winter1997-Sundgaard-Gross-Lin-Roarty-Stephens-PaWLEY#fullscreen&from_embed)

**Radio interview with Tennessee Williams about *Cat*, New York, 1955 (23 minutes)**

Williams discusses the themes of his new play, and that it raises problems to which society does not have solutions. Also makes an interesting comparison between *Cat* and Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour*.

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/cat-on-a-hot-tin-roof/>