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X. J. Kennedy, Dana Gioia

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X. J. Kennedy, Dana Gioia : Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing, Compact Edition (7th Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing, Compact Edition (7th Edition):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The best English anthology yet, in a form easy to carryBy Bud MckechnieIt's the best anthology I've seen in 50 years. It has detailed explanations of all the literary areas it covers, and sample student essays which greatly help freshmen transitioning from high school to college. The 13th edition is a slight but not a significant improvement. I have bought several copies to lend to students still waiting for theirs to arrive. Be sure to get the portable edition, which divides the heavy hard cover book into four paperback books which will save your arm by carrying far less weight to the classroom. These editors make it easy to learn and easy to teach Freshman English, which I have done for ten years. Rental is cheaper, but this is a book you will want to keep.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A very good and thorough textbook.By HelpfileThis textbook gives deep coverage to the areas of short fiction, drama, and poetry. It contains an astounding amount of information. There are quite a number of full stories, poems, and plays--although I have not counted, I would say that the number could be approaching 1000.The authors have done a great job in selecting writings to illustrate concepts. All of the selected writings are good, in the objective sense--they contain deep meaning. Of course, personal taste is subjective, and my experience was that some of the writings were thoroughly enjoyable, and none were quite intolerable.There are also questions after pieces of literature to help the reader achieve more insight than they might of their own devices, small sections that offer tips on writing, light biographies and case studies of various authors. Throughout the course I have made lists of various authors I found to be particularly interesting, for further reading on my own time.This singular textbook was, for the purpose of my class, equivalent to a boxed set which contains each of the treated topics in a separate book. The page numbers corresponded exactly to those of the books in the boxed set. I saved a good bit of money in purchasing this, and I much prefer a single textbook to a clumsy boxed set.I like this textbook enough that now that my class is done, I am still considering whether to keep it for independent learning or sell it to recoup some of the cost.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great for professional teaching library!By anaI was required to have the 5th edition of this book for one of my education classes. I didn't want to buy it though, so I checked THIS edition out of the library. After reading it I realized I actually did want to buy it, because it has a lot of book lists and recommendations that I thought would be useful for my future teaching library. However, a 6th edition

of this book was recently released, so I didn't want to buy the 5th edition for \$80 when I KNEW that soon it would be worth almost nothing, so I bought this edition instead because it was less than \$4! Also, I checked the page numbers up to the ones my professor cited for certain chapters, and the difference is very minimal. About 5-6 page difference. I also had no trouble finding the information my professor expected me to know, as everything that she was going off of in the 5th edition is also in this edition. I imagine the only real difference is that the newer editions have more up-to-date book lists. I would recommend this book to anyone in the teaching profession though because it has SO many book recommendations and very useful information in general.

The most popular Literature anthology continues to bring students the finest literature from fables to poetweets. The Twelfth Edition of *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing, Compact Edition* edited by X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, includes eleven new stories from students' favorite authors: ZZ Packer's "Brownies"; Ray Bradbury's "The Sound of Thunder"; Anne Tyler's "Teenage Wasteland"; David Levitt's "A Place I've Never Been"; and Isabel Allende's "The Judge's Wife." More than 60 new accessible and engaging poems have been added including former Iraqi soldier Brian Turner's "The Hurt Locker"; Katha Pollitt's "The Mind-Body Problem"; as well as poetweets from Lawrence Bridges and Robert Pinsky. In addition, there are new poems from Kay Ryan, Benjamin Alire Saenz, H. D., Gary Snyder, Joy Harjo, Tami Haaland, Robert Hayden, Denise Levertov, and William Carlos Williams. Three new one-act plays help ease students into the study of this genre. The new plays include two comedies-- David Ives's "Sure Thing" and Jane Martin's "Beauty"; as well as Edward Bok Leers's experimental drama *El Santo Americano*. In addition, Milcha Sanchez-Scott's *The Cuban Swimmer* has been added.

About the Author 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 written six more collections, 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, the Robert Frost Medal of the Poetry Society of America, and the Award for Poetry for Children from the National Council of Teachers of English. He now lives in Lexington, Massachusetts, where he and his wife Dorothy have collaborated on four books and five children. 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. After years of writing and reading late in the evenings after work, he quit a corporate vice presidency to write. 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 2003-2009 he served as the Chairman of the National Endowments 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 U.S. reading. He is currently the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California.

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