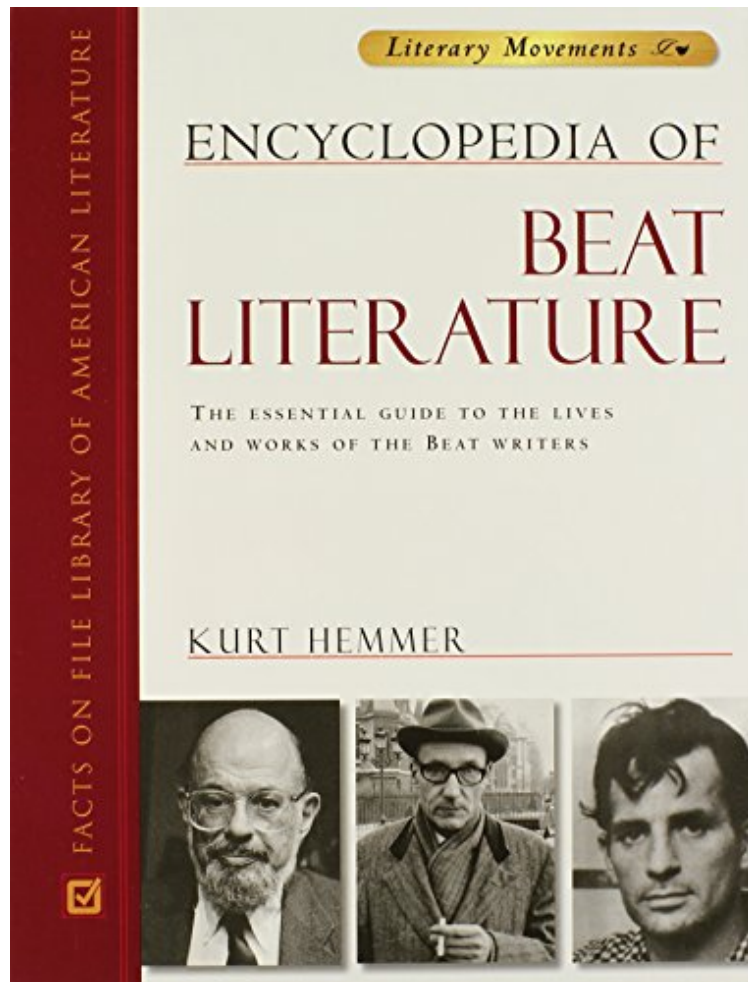


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Encyclopedia of Beat Literature (Literary Movements)

Kurt Hemmer

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Kurt Hemmer : Encyclopedia of Beat Literature (Literary Movements) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Beat Literature (Literary Movements):

Since the 1950s, the experimental style, bohemian life and rebellious attitudes of the Beats have influenced literature and culture. The deaths at the end of the 20th century of such Beat figures as Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs renewed interest in the lives and work of writers who have held underground appeal for generations of young adults. Some Beat writers and their associates, such as Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka), and Denise Levertov, are now included in classroom anthologies; others have popular appeal for their unorthodox writing style and anti-authoritarian point of view. In an A-to-Z format, this work covers the literary origins and key figures of the Beat movement. More than 500 entries cover: synopses of fiction, poetry and essays by Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg,

William Burroughs and other major Beat writers, with notes on background and critical reception.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up This source emphasizes the best works of Beat literature. The introduction poses questions and provides analyses as to what works constitute the genre. Various scholarly contributors, including teachers, authors, poets, and English professors, sign off on numerous entries written in a succinct, informative, and user-friendly manner. Readers can access entries alphabetically, either by writer or literary work. Coverage ranges from the more popularly known writers, such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, to people such as Kathy Acker, Carolyn Cassady, Bob Dylan, Charles Bukowski, and John Lennon, who are associated with the movement in differing ways. Enhancements include occasional black-and-white photographs taken by renowned Beat photographer Larry Keenan, selected primary and secondary bibliographies, and a chronology. Though this is an excellent resource, William T. Lawlor's *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons, and Impact* (ABC-CLIO, 2005) provides a broader overview of Beat culture and would more easily support a teaching-across-the-curriculum focus, with its assortment of entries on multiple subjects, such as literature, history, and people. Cara Webster, Cumberland Square Vise Library, Lebanon, TN Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Part of the Facts On File Literary Movements series, this volume is an introduction to the "works produced by the Beat writers and their allied contemporaries." It treats writers and their "best, most famous, and most innovative" novels, memoirs, poetry, essays, and short stories. The Beat Generation is defined here as extending from 1944 to 1967, but writers who influenced or were deeply influenced by the Beats are included as well, among them Bob Dylan and John Lennon. Arrangement is alphabetical, and entries are usually around a page to a page and a half long, although those for the well-known authors William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac extend for multiple pages. Each entry concludes with a bibliography for more information. Some entries include black-and-white photos. Following the entries are an afterword summarizing the Beats' influence; a selected bibliography of major works, arranged by author; a selected bibliography of secondary resources; a chronology; and an index. *The Beat Generation* (2003), part of the Gale Critical Companion series, covers the literature in greater depth. *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons, and Impact* (ABC-CLIO, 2005) has entries for cultural and historical themes and musicians and artists as well as writers. The Facts On File volume is meant to be an overview of major contributors to the Beat movement, and it is recommended for literature collections. Dawson, Jennifer ... "a welcome addition to reference materials in the area of literary movements...[a] solid, very readable and essential contribution to the field of literary genre reference materials. It is highly recommended for all undergraduate collections and public libraries as well as research libraries."