

# THE CRITICAL RESPONSE TO KURT VONNEGUT

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*Edited by*  
Leonard Mustazza

# Critical Response To Kurt Vonnegut

**Leonard Mustazza**



## **Critical Response To Kurt Vonnegut:**

The Critical Response to Kurt Vonnegut Leonard Mustazza, 1994-10-26 From the time he left his job as a publicist for General Electric in 1950 to pursue a career as a writer Kurt Vonnegut has made an indelible mark on American literature During the first decade of his career his work appeared chiefly in paperback With the hardcover publication of *Cat's Cradle* in 1963 his writings received increasing attention with criticism of Vonnegut's work flourishing during the decades that followed This volume traces the critical response to his work Included in this book are reviews and critical essays on Vonnegut's writings from the roots of his career to the present day The critical pieces are arranged chronologically from a review of *Player Piano* to an article on *Hocus Pocus* The book systematically covers the critical response to every one of Vonnegut's novels The first part of the book covers Vonnegut's rise to critical success with the publication of *Slaughterhouse Five* in 1969 while the second part focuses on his later work from *Breakfast of Champions* 1970 through *Hocus Pocus* 1990 A selected bibliography concludes the work

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Critical Essays on Kurt Vonnegut Robert Merrill, 1990 This volume contains reviews of Vonnegut's major works and essays surveying his career and the history of scholarship on his fiction The essays show an author preoccupied with life's apparent lack of meaning and purpose with war and human suffering and with the precariousness of human psychological and physical survival Topics covered include Vonnegut's use of literary devices such as defamiliarization and the hero monomyth and the theme of the artificially created extended family as a bulwark against loneliness Of particular interest are Robert Scholes *Kurt Vonnegut and Black Humor* David Cowart's *Culture and Anarchy* Vonnegut's *Later Career* and Kathryn Hume's *Kurt Vonnegut and the Myths and Symbols of Meaning* ISBN 0 8161 8893 9 38 00

**The Cambridge Companion to American Novelists** Timothy Parrish, 2013 This volume provides newly commissioned essays from leading scholars and critics on the social and cultural history of the novel in America It explores the work of the most influential American novelists of the past 200 years including Melville Twain James Wharton Cather Faulkner Ellison Pynchon and Morrison

**Historical Dictionary of Science**

**Fiction Literature** Brian Stableford, 2004-04-19 This reference tracks the development of speculative fiction influenced by the advancement of science and the idea of progress from the eighteenth century to the present day The major authors and publications of the genre and significant subgenres are covered Additionally there are entries on fields of science and technology which have been particularly prolific in provoking such speculation The list of acronyms and abbreviations the chronology covering the literature from the 1700s through the present the introductory essay and the dictionary entries provide science fiction novices and enthusiasts as well as serious writers and critics with a wonderful foundation for understanding the realm of science fiction literature The extensive bibliography that includes books journals fanzines and websites demonstrates that science fiction literature commands a massive following **Brave new words** Jeff Prucher,

**Dark Humor** Harold Bloom, Blake Hobby, 2010 Provides an examination of the use of dark humor in classic literary works

**The Critical Response to Tom Wolfe** Doug Shomette, 1992-08-30 Author of *The Right Stuff* and other journalistic writings in a literary vein and the novel *Bonfire of the Vanities* Tom Wolfe has been lauded and vilified by the critics for breaking down the barriers between fact and fiction journalism and literature and for his stylistic idiosyncrasies Beginning with *The Kandy Kolored Tangerine Flake Streamline Baby* published in 1965 he has turned his keen eye and high spirits some would say mean spirits to the sacred cows and icons of art architecture fashion and politics as well as to cults and the drug culture the Beautiful People astronauts and Wall Street stockbrokers Doug Shomette collects from four to eight representative reviews and critical commentaries on each of Wolfe's eleven major works including essays by novelists Kurt Vonnegut Jr and John Hersey scholars Alan Trachtenberg and Albert Bergesen journalist Garry Wills and critic Hilton Kramer Shomette's judicious introduction summarizes these fifty four pieces as well as other notable critical reactions not reprinted Also included is a chronology of important events in Wolfe's career a bibliography of additional readings and an index An informative and entertaining reader and reference book this work will be engrossing and enlightening to anyone who reads and enjoys Tom Wolfe or who is a student of postmodernism contemporary literature and the New Journalism

**Encyclopedia of American Literature** Manly, Inc., 2013-06 Susan Clair Imbarrato Carol Berkin Brett Barney Lisa Paddock Matthew J Brucoli George Parker Anderson Judith S *The Novels of Kurt Vonnegut* Donald Morse, 2003-07-30 This book is the first scholarly study to discuss all of Vonnegut's novels against the background of his other writing events of the 20th century and the vast array of Vonnegut scholarship In his novels he speaks eloquently and succinctly for his generation of Americans the central generation of 20th century Americans thus making him the representative 20th century American writer Morse discusses how Vonnegut's novels reflect the major traumatic public and private events that have gone into imagining being an American during that century including the Great Depression World War II the Bomb Vietnam the weakening of social institutions the vicissitudes of marriage and family divorce growing old experiencing loss and anticipating death *Critical Companion to Kurt Vonnegut* Susan Farrell, 2009 Kurt Vonnegut is one of the most popular

and admired authors of post war American literature famous both for his playful and deceptively simple style as well as for his scathing critiques of social injustice and war Criti      *Kurt Vonnegut* Harold Bloom, 2009 Collects eleven critical essays on various works by American writer Kurt Vonnegut covering texts such as *Slaughterhouse Five* and *Cat's Cradle*      *CEA Critic* College English Association, 1997      The Critical Response to Ishmael Reed Bruce Allen Dick, Pavel Zemliansky, 1999-02-28

Ishmael Reed has emerged as one of the most innovative and controversial novelists in contemporary African American literature By focusing on his nine published novels this volume charts the critical response to his works over time The book is organized by decade with each section containing book reviews and articles Beginning with material from the 1960s it explores Reed's concern with artistic freedom and examines the evolution of his Neo HooDoo aesthetic which combines satire and parody comedy and fantasy African and African American religion and myth history film and other forms of popular culture It celebrates and at times criticizes how Reed's fiction defies popular academic conceptions of what American writers particularly black American writers ought to be The book also includes a substantial introduction a transcript of a recent conversation in which Reed discusses his novels in progress and an extensive bibliography Since the publication of his first novel *The Free Lance Pallbearers* in 1967 Ishmael Reed has emerged as one of the most innovative and controversial African American writers Despite his belief that he and other black male artists have been misrepresented and virtually ignored in the press he has received more critical attention than almost any other contemporary African American male author The majority of this criticism has studied Reed's literary innovations and what he once called his Neo HooDoo aesthetic which draws on satire and parody comedy and fantasy African and African American religion and myth history film and various other elements of popular culture Since the 1970s many articles and reviews have looked at his commitment to multiculturalism while others have examined his views on gender and how they help define his position in the literary world This volume chronicles the critical response to Reed's works Organized by decades the book centers primarily on Reed's nine published novels It contains book reviews and essays devoted to these novels as well as a recent interview in which Reed discusses his works in progress including *Making a Killing* a novel about the O J Simpson trial While Reed has attained success as a poet and social critic his novels continue to attract most of the attention These include a science fiction fantasy a western two mysteries a neo slave narrative two political parodies a trickster tale about contemporary race and gender issues and a satire on modern academia The reaction to his works varies from ridicule and condemnation to respect and high praise A substantial introduction overviews the response to his works and a chronology lists the major events in his life and career The volume concludes with extensive bibliographical information      Nihilism and Organicism William R. Hughes, 2001      **The Vonnegut Chronicles** Peter Reed, Marc Leeds, 1996-09-30 The 14 essays in this collection seek to chronicle Vonnegut's career as it moves through changing times The volume opens with a chronology of Vonnegut's life and three interviews with him The essays consider his career combining interest and readability for the general reader with

critical commentary for the more serious scholar The essays consider Vonnegut's later work or are retrospectives  
reevaluating aspects of his career Book Description [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)      Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Jesse Stuart-Emile  
Zola, 2000      Studies in American Humor, 2006      **Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction** Kirk H. Beetz, 1996  
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