

SOMEDAY

Dramatic Study

—

Context

# **Term To Know: Literary Criticism**

**Literary criticism is the evaluation, analysis, description, or interpretation of literary works. It is usually in the form of a critical essay, but in-depth book reviews can sometimes be considered literary criticism. Criticism may examine a particular literary work, or may look at an author's writings as a whole.**

# HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL CRITICISM

New Historicism is a form of literary criticism that argues that in order to understand a work of literature and the author's intentions, you need to understand:

- the author's social background
- the author's life
- ideas circulating during the time the author was writing
- what other works influenced the creation of the one under examination

Valuable literature, therefore, is that which tells us truths about the period which produced them. We are getting, according to this approach, a vision of human nature or the world in general as filtered through an author's individual insight and perceptions. To enter into this form of criticism, we must first research the historical, cultural, and biographical details surrounding the author's life.

# Authorial Context

Author: Drew Hayden Taylor

- An Ojibway man from the Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario
- He has traveled to seventeen countries around the world, spreading the gospel of Native literature to the world.
- he has tried to educate and inform the world about issues that reflect, celebrate, and interfere in the lives of Canada's First Nations.



# Historical Context

The  
“Sixties  
Scoop”



Those who lived through it say they were **robbed of their cultural identity.**



# Historical and Cultural Context: The 60's Scoop Survivors Share



# Historical & Cultural Context: The Oka Crisis

Go To Our Class Website then

[Click To Read this Text:](#) The Canadian  
Encyclopedia

[Oka Crisis 101 Video](#)

# New Historicism: A Form of Literary Criticism

Now that we know some authorial, historical, and cultural context that influenced the creation of this text, let's explore how we employ this in our study of the text. While we read, we should ask ourselves:

- How are events' interpretation and presentation a product of the culture of the author? Does the work's presentation support or condemn the culture of the time?
- How does this portrayal support or criticize the leading political figures or movements of the day?
- How can we use a literary work to better understand the culture in which and for which the text was written?
- How does the work represent traditionally marginalized populations?



# New Historicism: A Form of Literary Criticism

Once you understand the authorial, historical and cultural contexts that influence the production of a piece of literature, you must also explore the textual context:

- What is the genre and how does this influence the communication of the author's message?
- What devices does the author use to communicate an important message in the text?

# Textual Context: Dramatic Techniques

[Click to play](#)

[List of Dramatic Devices](#)

# Goals While Analyzing *Someday*

1. Determine the message(s) Drew Hayden Taylor is teaching his audience about:
  - A. Challenges
  - B. Identity
  - C. Sovereignty
  
2. Determine HOW he communicates this message (the dramatic devices employed to communicate his messages to his audience).