



Approaches to Teaching the Novels of Nella Larsen (Approaches to Teaching World Literature)

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Nella Larsen's novels *Quicksand* and *Passing*, published at the height of the Harlem Renaissance, fell out of print and were thus little known for many years. Now widely available and taught, *Quicksand* and *Passing* challenge conventional "tragic mulatta" and "passing" narratives. In part 1, "Materials," of *Approaches to Teaching the Novels of Nella Larsen*, the editor surveys the canon of Larsen's writing, evaluates editions of her works, recommends secondary readings, and compiles a list of useful multimedia resources for teaching.

The essays in part 2, "Approaches," aim to help students better understand attitudes toward women and race during the Harlem Renaissance, the novels' relations to other artistic movements, and legal debates over racial identities in the early twentieth century. In so doing, contributors demonstrate how new and seasoned instructors alike might use Larsen's novels to explore a wide range of topics--including Larsen's short stories and letters, the relation between her writings and her biography, and the novels' discussion of gender and sexuality.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Jacquelyn Y. McLendon is professor of English and Africana Studies at the College of William and Mary. Her publications include *The Politics of Color in the Fiction of Jessie Fauset and Nella Larsen*. She is co-series editor of the *Pearson Library of American Literature* database.

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