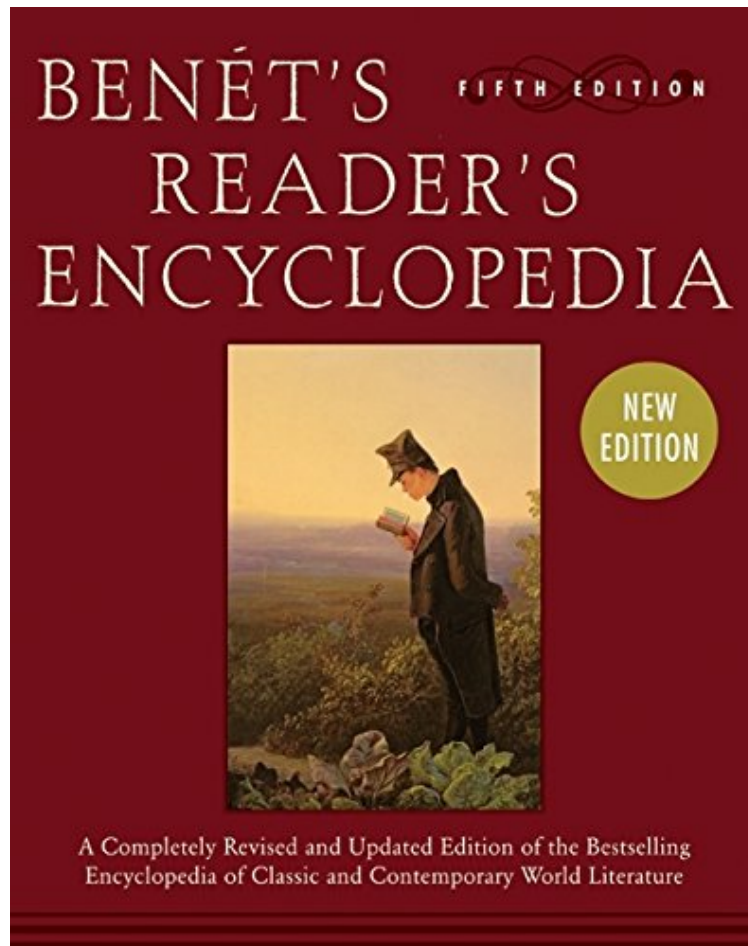


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## Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia 5e: Fifth Edition

*Bruce Murphy*

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**Bruce Murphy : Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia 5e: Fifth Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia 5e: Fifth Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's A Book About BooksBy thirdtwinIf you net connection happens to be down or you want to go into more depth about an author book or movements than computers provide than this is the volume for you. Quite comprehensive in coverage up to the year of its publication it's a joy to browse through in your spare time to revisit some of your favorite ideas or find out about authors and related topics you've missed until now- and all without tv computer or cable. If knowledge is power than this book is full of it- everything you've missed in literature in the past is made new again. A nice refresher course all in a single volume.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy Fernando Macotella VI am the happy owner of the second edition of Bent's The Reader's Encyclopedia (ed. 1965). I bought that wonderful book on May 17, 1966, and I think it is perhaps the book I have consulted more times in my life. It's so good that I only realized it was almost half a century old a few weeks ago! So, I decided to buy the last edition imagining all the novelties and wonders I would find in it. That wasn't

exactly the case. I realise (and accept) that, in order to add all the numerous new entries, something had to be changed. But anyway it was a disappointment to discover that all 148 title pages, woodcuts and drawings included in the beautiful Second edition were suppressed, in the same way that some other things (the popes list for instance). And finally, my fading sight very much regrets the very pale ink tone of the last edition. I can read without any difficulty the other one. Of course, this book will always be a good and very useful one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By NSEssential book for the old school writers out there.

Long recognized as the supreme reference on world literature, Bent's Reader's Encyclopedia is the single-most complete one-volume encyclopedia available for those with a serious interest in the subject. More than 10,000 entries explore all aspects of literature from around the world: biographies of poets and playwrights, novelists and belletrists; plot synopses and character sketches from important works; historical data on literary schools, movements, terms, and awards; myths and legends; and more. Completely revised and updated, the fifth edition continues to expand on the diversity of today's canon, with greater attention to traditions from around the globe. In particular, this edition brings new focus to the changing landscape of world religion and culture, as well as to accurate reflection of contemporary reexaminations and interpretations, such as those of the Ottomans, Olmecs, and Umayyads. For more than sixty years, William Rose Bent and the editors who succeeded him have upheld the level of quality that distinguished the original Bent's Reader's Encyclopedia. Like its predecessors, this new edition will teach and delight, illuminate and expound, and enrich the pleasure of reading in countless ways.

From Booklist  
First published in 1948, Bents is one of those eminently useful and browsable reference sources that transcend the print-versus-electronic debate (at least for now). The fourth edition, published in 1996, responded to the explosion of interest in other cultures. The fifth edition continues down that road, with a goal to do justice to all traditions. Biographies of world poets, playwrights, novelists, and essayists are joined by plot summaries for major works and entries on literary characters, myth and legend, national literatures, genres, movements, and more. In addition, there are entries from history, science, philosophy anything that is likely to be encountered by the general reader. Among new entries are those for Michael Chabon, Jonathan Franzen, Roman Polanski, and Harry Potter. Also new are entries for Asian writers outside the traditions of China, India, and Japan, among them Jos Rizal (1861-1896), from the Philippines, and Lee Kok Liang (1927-1992), from Malaysia. Numerous entries have been revised, though some, such as Arab-Israeli conflict and Copyright, are out-of-date. Missing are entries for emerging forms, such as graphic novels. Also needed is an entry for the Man Booker Prize. In his preface to the first edition (reprinted in the fifth), William Rose Bent referred to his encyclopedia as a well-organized supplementary memory. Though supplementary memory is one of many functions now performed by the Web, there are few libraries that would not want to have this classic on the ready-reference shelf. --Mary Ellen Quinn  
An edifying staple...it steps outside literary boundaries to embrace influential political and cultural figures and organizations. Highly recommended. (Library Journal)  
About the Author  
Bruce Murphy is a writer and poet who holds a bachelor's degree in English from Harvard University and master's degrees in English and Creative Writing from the University of Chicago and New York University respectively. His debut book of poems, *Sing, Sing, Sing*, was the first recipient of the Bobst Award.