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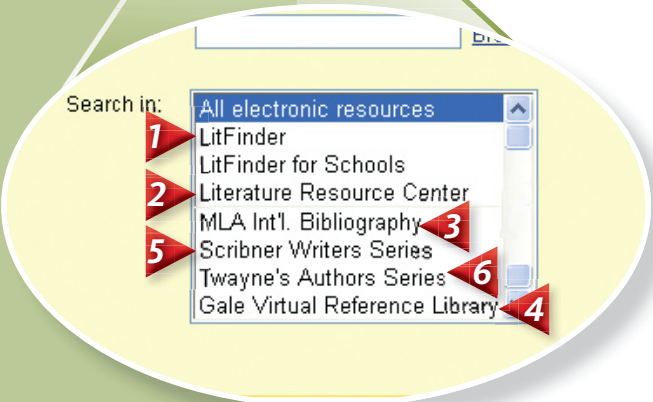
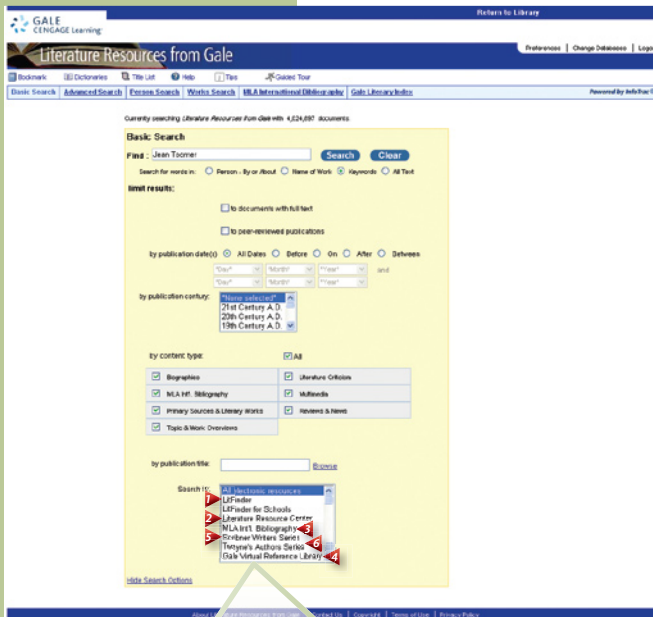
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Title: Jean Toomer

Author(s): Robert Bone

Publication Date: Down Home: Origins of the Afro-American Short Story, Columbia, University Press, 1988.

Source: [Short Story Criticism](#), Ed. Justin Klar, Vol. 45, Detroit: Gale Group, 2001, p223-228. From [Literature Resource Center](#).

Document Type: Critical essay

Bookmark: [Bookmark this Document](#)

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[[essay date 1988] In the following excerpt, Bone discusses "Fern," "Theater," and "Sona and Paul" as prime examples of Toomer's narrative technique.]

The genre of *Cane* has been the subject of considerable speculation and debate. Some critics have viewed the book as an experimental novel, others as a miscellany, composed of poetic, dramatic, and narrative elements; still others as a work *sub* generic, which deliberately violates the standard categories. The problem is complicated by the fact that parts of *Cane* were published independently as poems, sketches, and stories.¹ This would suggest that Toomer thought of them as separate entities, whatever their subsequent function in the overall design. Without attempting to resolve the larger issue, let us reduce the book to its constituent parts, in order to determine which may be legitimately classified as short stories.

Of the twenty-nine units of which *Cane* is composed, fifteen are plainly poems, written for the most part in free verse.

limit to: peer-reviewed

Sort by: Publication Date (Descending)

1. "A Little Yellow Bastard Boy": Paternal Rejection, Filial Insistence, and the Triumph of African American Cultural Aesthetics in Langston Hughes's "Mutater," Robert Paul Lamb

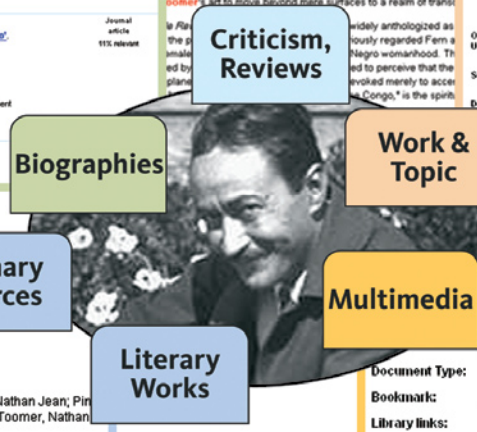
College Literature 35.2 (Spring 2008): p126-163.

MLA International Bibliography, Modern Language Association of America, p126. From *Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography*.

[Subject Terms: American literature, 1900-1999; Hughes, Langston (1902-1967); "A Little Yellow Bastard Boy"; poetry; treatment of racial identity; father-son relations; relationship to reception; black aesthetic.]

2. "A Small Man in Big Spaces": The New Negro, the Mestizo, and Jean Toomer's Southwestern Writing, Emily Lutenski

MELUS: The Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States



Title: Explanation of: "Georgia Dusk" by Jean Toomer

Poem, 1923

American Writer (1894 - 1967)

Other Names Used: Toomer, Nathan Pinchback; Toomer, Nathan Jean; Pinchback, Eugene; Toomer, Eugene; Toomer, Eugene Pinchback; Toomer, Nathan Eugene; Toomer, Eugene Pinchback

Source: [LitFinder Contemporary Collection](#) Gale, Cengage Learning, 2000. From [LitFinder](#).

Document Type: Work overview

Bookmark: [Bookmark this Document](#)

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Explanation of: "GEORGIA DUSK"

Toomer spent the first seventeen years of his life in Washington D.C., where he was largely sheltered from the racial violence that defined African-American life for most African-Americans at the start of the twentieth century. After that time, he moved to several urban, Northern locations, living a couple of places in New York, then in Washington again. However, in 1917, Toomer accepted a teaching position in rural Georgia. His experiences there with race and Blacks and their folk

Title: Banking Coal

Poem, (20th Century)

Author(s): Jean Toomer

American Writer (1894 - 1967)

Other Names Used: Toomer, Nathan Pinchback; Toomer, Nathan Jean; Pinchback, Eugene; Toomer, Eugene Pinchback; Toomer, Nathan Eugene Pinchback

Source: [LitFinder Contemporary Collection](#), Gale, Cengage Learning

Document Type: Poem

Bookmark: [Bookmark this Document](#)

Library links:

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Text: Whoever it was who brought the first wood and coal
To start the fire, did his part well;
Not coal from wood before it's burned to charcoal.

Title: Jean Toomer

[Literature Resource Center](#), Gale, Cengage Learning

Document Type: Photograph

Bookmark: [Bookmark this Document](#)

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- Full-text critiques from The Southern Literary Journal, MELUS, Studies in American Fiction and other scholarly sources
- Topic overviews of such works as "Georgia Dusk" and "Blood-Burning Moon"
- The eBook *Literary Themes for Students*, from *Gale Virtual Reference Library*
- Primary-source text of "Banking Coal" and "Beehive," from *LitFinder*
- At least 100 citations from *MLA International Bibliography*
- Downloadable photos of Toomer and links to reliable Web sites
- Plus hundreds of other related results

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