Locating information on literary characters can be difficult since no one subject heading will cover all situations. To find a certain author’s characters, your search should include the name of the author and the term “characters.”

Try searching by the character’s name if he or she is well known. Characters such as Hamlet, Huckleberry Finn, Emma Bovary, and Hester Prynne are prominent enough to have entire books written about them.

The following bibliography includes a number of reference and circulating materials. This is not all the material available. Electronic resources such as Literature Resource Center, JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, Literary Reference Center, Project Muse and all literary databases, will provide additional information, as will the Masterplots series kept on Index Table 8B.

**General Resources**

*Character of Truth: Historical Figures in Contemporary Fiction*  
PN3335 J27 1990

*Characters in Children’s Literature*  
PN1009 A1 J78 1997 REF

*Characters in Young Adult Literature*  
PN10009 A1 G47 REF

*Crowell’s Handbook for Readers and Writers: A Dictionary of Famous Characters and Plots in Legend, Fiction, Drama, Opera, and Poetry*  
PN41 G4 REF

*Cyclopedia of Literary Characters (5 volumes)*  
PN44 M3 1998 REF

*Dictionary of American Characters*  
PS374 C43 D5 2002 REF

*Dictionary of British Literary Characters: 18th and 19th C. Novels*  
PR830 C47 D5 1993 REF

*Dictionary of British Literary Characters: 20th Century Novels*  
PR830 C47 D5 1994 REF

*Dictionary of Real People and Places in Fiction*  
PN56.4 R56 1993 REF

*Index of Characters in Early Modern English Drama: Printed Plays 1500-1660*  
PR1265.3 B4 1998 REF

*Larousse Dictionary of Literary Characters*  
PR19 L37 1994 REF
Major Characters in American Fiction

Native American Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes

The Originals: an A-Z of Fiction’s Real-Life Characters

Who’s Who in Children’s Books: A Treasury of the Familiar Characters of Childhood

Specific Authors

Characters of Joyce

Characters of Shakespeare’s Plays

A Character Index of Robert Penn Warren’s Long Works of Fiction

The Dickens Encyclopedia: an Alphabetical Dictionary of References to Every Character and Place Mentioned in the Works of Fiction

Rhetoric of Literary Characters: Some Women of Henry James

Thomas Wolfe’s Characters: Portraits from Life

Who’s Who in Dickens

Who’s Who in Jane Austen and the Brontës

Who’s Who in Faulkner

Who’s Who in Shakespeare