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## **CUSTOMER REVIEWS**

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### **Connell Guides - an irresistible series**

By [Effeebee](#) on 1 Aug. 2012

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

1 August 2012

I have just received and read "Pride and Prejudice" ed. Janet Todd (Connell Guide) - it is absolutely splendid in every way. It tackles head-on all the "frequently asked questions" about the novel, providing illuminating discussion of various possible answers. And all for just £6.99! The authors of the titles so far available are all outstanding scholars (Janet Todd is the General Editor of the acclaimed Cambridge Edition of Jane Austen). I am so impressed by the "Pride and Prejudice" volume and so confident in the quality of this series that I have immediately ordered 11 more titles. What more can I say?

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### **Excellent**

By [MikeDavid](#) on 26 Feb. 2013

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This is an excellent guide! It provides such an interesting and detailed analysis of Jane Austen's great novel, without being too lengthy. I read it in just a few hours and wish we'd had these guides for when my daughters were still at school!

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### **I cannot say enough good things about it**

By [Anon](#) on 9 July 2014

Format: Paperback

This is an informative and insightful reference guide. My previous, what I now view as superficial, readings of this novel need an adjustment and I am inspired to read P and P again with a whole new mindset gained from instructive information packed into such a fabulous small volume. I cannot say enough good things about it. This was the best of the Connell Guides I have used so far. If I could give it more than 5 stars, I would.

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## **Enriching and enlightening**

By [C. L. Sams](#) on 17 May 2014

Format: Paperback

I read The Great Gatsby in college many decades ago and saw the film quite recently. This Connell Guide was riveting - so full of insights that helped expand my understanding of why this novel is deservedly so highly regarded. Just the detail of the 'Getz' name that morphed into Gatsby was typical of the depth of insight that this guide gives. It left me in awe of the skill and art of F Scott Fitzgerald and determined me to read the book again, probably with this guide at my side. My next step will be the guide to Macbeth and I hope that they will eventually do a guide to Henry V - it covers unnecessary foreign wars and their domestic harm and I'd love to see them cover it with the same competence as they have done with The Great Gatsby

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## **The Great Gatsby**

By [Sara Sassanelli](#) on 22 Feb. 2013

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

Whoever is studying The Great Gatsby should own this guide. This is the most helpful and detailed guide book I have come across and yet it is still small and only takes a couple of hours to read back to back! I love the random facts, the word 'time' appears 87 times in the novel is not something that we necessarily need to know but it is entertaining! And the chapters each cover the different topics that exam questions might be on.

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## **I cannot say enough good things about the Connell Guides**

By [Anon](#) on 28 Jun. 2014

Format: Paperback

I cannot say enough good things about the Connell Guides. They are a splendid resource for the scholar and lay reader alike into the works they cover and this one is no exception. The little sidebars, background historical notes, etc are all useful, educational and insightful. I will look back at Fitzgerald's text with a new appreciation and will read it again as if anew.

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## **HIGHLY RECOMMEND THESE GUIDES**

By [alastair clifford-jones](#) on 2 May 2015

Format: Paperback

Excellent guide. Thoroughly enjoying and looking forward to purchasing my next Connell Guide!



**Enriching and enlightening, 17 May 2014**

By

## **C. L. Sams**

**This review is from: The Connell Guide to F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (Advanced study text guide) (Paperback)**

I read The Great Gatsby in college many decades ago and saw the film quite recently. This Connell Guide was riveting - so full of insights that helped expand my understanding of why this novel is deservedly so highly regarded. Just the detail of the 'Getz' name that morphed into Gatsby was typical of the depth of insight that this guide gives. It left me in awe of the skill and art of F Scott Fitzgerald and determined me to read the book again, probably with this guide at my side. My next step will be the guide to Macbeth and I hope that they will eventually do a guide to Henry V - it covers unnecessary foreign wars and their domestic harm and I'd love to see them cover it with the same competence as they have done with The Great Gatsby

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**I wish I had this when I was writing my thesis!**

By [Anon](#) on 1 Jun. 2014

Format: Paperback

Another great Connell Guide. I wish this was available when I was writing my thesis - there are a few gems in here I could have used. These guides are more than a synopsis. They are more than a summary of themes and ideas in the novel. This guide in particular goes deep into the commentary of the novel and presents criticism beyond that in an introduction. Well worth the read.

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**Concise and Detailed**

By [Olatunde](#) on 22 Sept. 2014

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

I wasn't expecting the book to be so small, it could literally fit through your post box. I thought the size of the book would be a disadvantage but it saves me so much time when looking at the chapters. Would definitely recommend over other Tess of the D'Urbervilles

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**Great find!**

By [Colin](#) on 2 Oct. 2015

Format: Paperback

This guide was such a great find. It explained Tess of the d'Urbevilles in an intelligent way that left me enlightened but never alienated. I will be buying more of the collection as soon as I can!

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**This is an excellent student guide**

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By [blondie](#) on 27 Mar. 2016

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This is an excellent student guide, providing both context and commentary. It is small & will fit in a handy pocket, but the compact format can be slightly confusing to navigate: different areas are sometimes analysed across the same page, but in different coloured type. One just has to remember to go back & read the other bit. It will be well worth the effort!

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### **Five Stars**

By [Shirley Asquith](#) on 2 Dec. 2015

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This is the book you need if you are studying Virginia Wolf.

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### **The Tempest**

By [DonB](#) on 8 Dec. 2012

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This is a brilliantly clear, scholarly and enticingly structured guide to one of Shakespeare's best-known but often baffling plays. It strikes me as being essential reading for all serious theatre-goers. I look forward to reading more guides in the series.

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### **Fantastic guide! This guide was concise, illuminating, explanatory, and yet accessible.**

By [Anon](#) on 12 May 2014

Format: Paperback

I have just finished the Connell Guides for A Midsummer Night's Dream. Seems appropriate since it feels like summer here in Southern California. I wish I had had something like this for my undergraduate and graduate work. Would have been sooooo helpful. This guide was concise, illuminating, explanatory, and yet accessible. I have read this play countless times but this guide written by Tom Bishop still gave me a fresh perspective. Invaluable. These guides are utterly fantastic - small, easy to read, well worth it.

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### **Brilliant aid for understanding a great poem**

By [Rea](#) on 7 May 2014

Format: Paperback

T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land is, in the words of the Connell Guides publishers, "one of modern poetry's greatest works", to my mind perhaps as great and modern today as when it was first published in 1922. Many of its episodes and images are comprehensible and emotive (as well as memorable), providing the reader with the satisfaction of having grasped

an inkling of “what it is all about”. At the same time one knows that frustratingly there is so much more to be understood. In his Connell Guide to *The Waste Land*, Seamus Perry provides an excellent aid for achieving a greater understanding. He addresses references and allusions (literary, religious and others), imagery, grammar, metre, punctuation, historical and social context and much more – in an immensely inspiring way. His prose is easy to read, concise yet full of meaning. I am no longer a student nor a teacher but am positive that this Guide would be a brilliant teaching/study aid for these groups.

The book itself is attractive. It is small and light, fitting snugly into a pocket or a handbag – it also has a nice feel to it and the binding is strong. I like the colour scheme of the cover, and that these colours are duplicated in the text. Some of the notes are lengthy and may perhaps be perceived as distractions, but they are distinctive so it is not difficult to spot them and leave them for later (or read them first). My only negative feeling was a slight irritation that Perry includes so much material that Ezra Pound had edited out before Eliot published the poem: Get on with it, I shouted silently: Perry is so obviously erudite and there is so much he could have included about the text that is actually included that I felt a bit cheated. However, I also realised that the omissions, too, were helpful to my understanding.

I am certainly going to read the guide again – with my well-annotated and be-scribbled copy of *The Waste Land* at hand. I am certainly also going to read some of the other guides – the range seems remarkable.

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### **It's never too late to read *Macbeth***

By [Heather Leighton](#) on 25 July 2014

Format: Paperback

I often feel like an imposter when someone mentions Shakespeare, even though we read one Shakespeare play per year in secondary school. But I guess I was thinking about something else when we read *Macbeth*. A few years ago, I bought the complete works of Shakespeare with the best intentions, but as can be expected, it sat on a bookshelf collecting dust. The task of reading Shakespeare was too daunting. Plus there was that niggling fear that I wouldn't understand a damn thing, undermining my confidence in my own language skills. The Connell Guide helped ease me into the work. When I read the summary, I was surprised to find that I actually remembered a lot more than I thought I had, and when I read the language in the actual play, it was not nearly as difficult as I thought it would be.

Thanks Connell Guide for making Shakespeare accessible and so enjoyable.

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**A in English!**

By [Mollie Letheren](#) on 20 Jun. 2014

Format: Paperback **Verified Purchase**

This guide definitely helped me through my exam and hopefully into University! I learned things about the play that my teacher hadn't covered and things I had never considered, so thank you!