

A Sense of Things: The Object Matter of American Literature / Bill Brown / 245 pages / 9780226076294 / 2003 / University of Chicago Press, 2003

What is American literature? It's writing created by American authors writing in the English language. Much of this literature describes life in America or of Americans living elsewhere. Americans started writing soon after the first European settlers arrived in the 1600s. Ever since, American authors have asked questions: Who are Americans? Writings like Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* (1776) encouraged Americans to seek independence from Britain. The new nation. After the American Revolution (1775-1783), the United States strived for its own identity, culture, and literature. Americans wanted books by American authors. They sought homegrown, real-life heroes like Daniel Boone. Biography and history books were popular. His books include "A Sense of Things: The Object Matter of American Literature" (2003). 29 March, 2010. Question: What is thing theory? Bill Brown: Sure. I think it, I'm willing to define thing theory but only in the broadest terms. When conducting research for my forthcoming book, "The Voice Catchers: How Marketers Listen In to Exploit Your Feelings, Your Privacy, and Your Wallet," I went through over 1,000 trade magazine and news articles on the companies connected to various forms of voice profiling. I examined hundreds of pages of U.S. and EU laws applying to biometric surveillance. A Sense of Things: The Ob has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. Buy Now. Brown's captivating new study explores the roots of modern America's fascination with things and the problem that objects posed for American literature at the turn of the century. This was an era when the invention, production, distribution, and consumption of things suddenly came to define a national culture. Trying to identify literary techniques? Check out our complete list of literary devices and get tips on how to spot and analyze them. It's often used by authors to lend a sense of realism to their characters and dialogue. Forms of colloquialism include words, phrases, and contractions that aren't real words (such as "gonna" and "ain't"). Example: "Hey, what's up, man?" This piece of dialogue is an example of a colloquialism, since it uses common everyday words and phrases, namely "what's up" and "man." Epigraph. An epigraph is when an author inserts a famous quotation, poem, song, or other short passage or text at the beginning of a larger text (e.g., a book, chapter, etc.). 2003. A Sense of Things: The Object Matter of American Literature. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2010. Introduction: Textual materialism. 2011. Knowing Books: The Consciousness of Mediation in Eighteenth-Century Britain. Material Texts. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Google Scholar. Trentmann, Frank. 2017. Empire of Things: How We Became a World of Consumers, from the Fifteenth Century to the Twenty-First. London: Penguin Books. Google Scholar. Veblen, Thorstein.