Record Nr. UNINA9910454116303321 Autore Berman Russell A. <1950-> **Titolo** Fiction sets you free [[electronic resource]]: literature, liberty, and western culture / / Russell A. Berman Iowa City,: University Of Iowa Press, c2007 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-58729-709-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (263 p.) Disciplina 809.3 Soggetti Fiction - History and criticism - Theory, etc Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references (p. [223]-228) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Contents; Acknowledgments; Why Literature Matters; Introduction; 1. Periodization and the Canon; 2. Human Origins and Literary Beginnings; 3. Writing and Heroism; 4. Literacy and Autonomy; 5. The Epic and the Individual; 6. Religion and Writing; 7. The Democracy of Literature; 8. Imagination and Economy; Notes; Bibliography; Index Sommario/riassunto In what can only be called a genuine intellectual adventure, Russell Berman raises fundamental questions long ignored by literary scholars; Why does literature command our attention at all? Why would society want to cultivate a sphere of activity devoted to the careful study of literary fiction? Written as a tonic to what he calls the debilitating cultural relativism of contemporary literary studies, Fiction Sets You Free advances the innovative argument that literature and capitalism. rather than representing merely commercialization, actually belie a

long and positive association: literary a