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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Copyright page / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso -- List of Figures and Tables / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso -- Introduction / Kati Macaluso and Michael Macaluso -- Decentering the Canon / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso -- Curating against the Canon / Kate Lechtenberg -- What do Olympians, Lowriders, and Shailene Woodley have to do with Language Arts? / Ashley K. Dallacqua and Annmarie Sheahan -- Shattering Literary Windows and Mirrors / Jeanne Dyches -- Making Contemporary Connections / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso -- Still Fighting for Migrant Workers' Rights 75 Years Later / Michelle M. Falter and Nina R. Schoonover -- Examining Islands Across Contexts / Jeremiah C. Sataraka and Ashley S. Boyd -- Teaching the House on Mango Street in the #Metoo ERA / Amy Cummins -- Fostering Critical Social Consciousness through "Text-to-Software" Connections with Brave New World / Mark A. Sulzer -- Applying Critical Lenses / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso -- A Critical Race Approach to Teaching to Kill A Mockingbird / CARLIN BORSHEIM-BLACK -- Using Counterstories to Critique Racism / Ashley Johnson and Mary L. Neville -- Class is in Session / Elizabeth Currin , Stephanie Schroeder and Todd Mccardle -- Interrupting Ideologies within the Canon / Mike P. Cook , Brandon L. Sams and Parker Wade --

Considering Whom we Teach / Michael Macaluso and Kati Macaluso --
A Critical Emotional Approach to Canonical Literature / Amanda
Haertling Thein -- Canonical Texts and Cultural Critique with English
Learners / Erin McNeill and Mary Beth Hines -- "This Ain't got Nuttin to
do with my Life" / Fawn Canady and Chyllis E. Scott -- Teaching
Critically for Freedom with 1984 / Mary E. Styslinger , Nicole Walker ,
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Sommario/riassunto

The canon, as much an ideology as it is a body of texts perceived to be intrinsic to the high school English classroom, has come under scrutiny for maintaining status quo narratives about whiteness, masculinity, heterosexuality, ability, and even those associated with American ideals of self-reliance, the good life, and the self-made man. Teaching practices around these texts may also reinforce harmful practices and ways of thinking, including those connected to notions of culture, literary merit, and methods of reading, teaching, and learning.

Teaching the Canon in 21st Century Classrooms offers innovative, critical ways of reading, thinking about, and teaching canonical texts in 21st century classrooms. Responding to the increasingly pluralized, digitized, global 21st century English classroom, chapter authors make explicit the ideologies of a canonical text of focus, while also elaborating a pedagogical approach that de-centers the canon, bridges past and present, applies critical theory, and celebrates the rich identities of 21st century readers. In using this book, teachers will be especially poised to take on the canon in their classroom and, thus, to open up their curricula to ideas, values, concerns, and narratives beyond those embedded in the canonical texts.
