

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777806303321
Autore	Paulson Ronald
Titolo	Sin and evil [[electronic resource]] : moral values in literature // Ronald Paulson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [CT], : Yale University Press, c2007
ISBN	1-281-73497-7 9786611734978 0-300-13520-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xvi, 403 p.)) : ill
Disciplina	820.9/38
Soggetti	Evil in literature English literature - History and criticism American literature - History and criticism Sin in literature Religion in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Evil, sin, and wrongdoing -- Classical and Christian equivalents of sin and evil -- Sin and evil redefined: the enlightenment -- Sin/evil and the law: the novel -- The demonizing of sin -- Demonic and banal evil -- The original evil and the original sin -- Modern sin and evil.
Sommario/riassunto	The confusion of sin and evil, or religious and moral transgression, is the subject of Ronald Paulson's latest book. He calls attention to the important distinction between sin and Evil (with a capital E) that in our times is largely ignored, and to the further confusion caused by the term "moral values." Ranging widely through the history of Western literature, Paulson focuses particularly on American and English works of the eighteenth through twentieth centuries to discover how questions of evil and sin-and evil and sinful behavior-have been discussed and represented.The breadth of Paulson's discussion is enormous, taking the reader from Greek and Roman tragedy, to Christian satire in the work of Swift and Hogarth, to Hawthorne's and Melville's novels, and finally to twentieth-century studies of good and evil by such authors as James, Conrad, Faulkner, Greene, Heller,

Vonnegut, and O'Brien. Where does evil come from? What are "moral values"? If evil is a cultural construct, what does that imply? Paulson's literary tour of sin and evil over the past two hundred years provides not only a historical perspective but also new ways of thinking about important issues that characterize our own era of violence, intolerance, and war.
