

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791425403321
Autore	Salazar James B
Titolo	Bodies of reform [[electronic resource]] : the rhetoric of character in Gilded Age America // James B. Salazar
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : New York University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-8147-8653-7 0-8147-4132-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (312 p.)
Collana	America and the long 19th century
Disciplina	823/.809353
Soggetti	American fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Character in literature Characters and characteristics in literature National characteristics, American, in literature Character - Political aspects - United States - History - 19th century Rhetoric - Political aspects - United States - History - 19th century Political culture - United States - History - 19th century Politics and literature - United States - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Philanthropic Taste -- 2. Character Is Capital -- 3. Muscle Memory -- 4. "A Story Written on Her Face" -- 5. Character's Conduct -- Notes -- Index -- About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	From the patricians of the early republic to post-Reconstruction racial scientists, from fin de siècle progressivist social reformers to post-war sociologists, character, that curiously formable yet equally formidable "stuff," has had a long and checkered history giving shape to the American national identity. Bodies of Reform reconceives this pivotal category of nineteenth-century literature and culture by charting the development of the concept of "character" in the fictional genres, social reform movements, and political cultures of the United States from the mid-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century. By reading novelists such as Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Pauline Hopkins, and Charlotte

Perkins Gilman alongside a diverse collection of texts concerned with the mission of building character, including child-rearing guides, muscle-building magazines, libel and naturalization law, Scout handbooks, and success manuals, James B. Salazar uncovers how the cultural practices of representing character operated in tandem with the character-building strategies of social reformers. His innovative reading of this archive offers a radical revision of this defining category in U.S. literature and culture, arguing that character was the keystone of a cultural politics of embodiment, a politics that played a critical role in determining-and contesting-the social mobility, political authority, and cultural meaning of the raced and gendered body.
