

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813081203321
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Titolo	The comic mode in English literature : from the Middle Ages to today / / Murray Roston
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Continuum, 2011
ISBN	1-283-32203-X 9786613322036 1-4411-3248-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (287 p.)
Disciplina	827.009
Soggetti	English literature - History and criticism Comedy - History and criticism
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	Introduction; Late Medieval; a) The Second Shepherds' Play; b) Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales; c) Medwall, Fulgens and Lucrece; The Renaissance; a) Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream; b) Falstaff; c) Donne, The Flea; d) Marvell, The Garden; The Restoration and Eighteenth Century; a) Restoration Comedy; b) Pope, The Rape of the Lock; c) The Vogue of Sentiment; d) Sterne, Tristram Shandy; The Nineteenth Century; a) Austen, Emma; b) Dickens, The Pickwick Papers; c) Poking Fun at the Establishment; d) Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest; e) Jerome K. Jerome, Three Men in a Boat The Twentieth Century a) George Bernard Shaw; b) Stella Gibbons, Cold Comfort Farm; c) Beckett, Waiting for Godot; d) Kingsley Amis, Lucky Jim; e) Malcolm Bradbury, The History Man; f) Helen Fielding, Bridget Jones's Diary; Notes; Works Cited - on the Comic; Works Cited - General; Index
Sommario/riassunto	From Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales to Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary, this is a comprehensive guide to comedy in the English literary canon. Beginning with a critical exploration of historical and philosophical theories of humour, the book then supplies close-readings of a wide range of major texts, authors and genres from the Medieval period to the present. The Comic Mode in English Literature

examines such texts as: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* Austen's *Emma*
