

## Ragtime El Doctorow

Critical Essays on E.L. Doctorow Billy Bathgate Ragtime Homer and Langley A Study Guide for E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime" Ragtime The Waterworks Mothers and Sons Loon Lake World's Fair Three Screenplays Doctorow: Collected Stories The Go-Go Years Creationists All the Time in the World Salmonia City of God Jack London, Hemingway, and the Constitution: Ragtime, The March, and Homer & Langley: Three Bestselling Novels Violence, Nudity, Adult Content Ragtime Ragtime The Book of Daniel Ragtime Andrew's Brain Welcome to Hard Times The Power and the Glory CLASSICS Ragtime The March Conversations with E.L. Doctorow The Story Grid Ragtime E.L. Doctorow's Ragtime The Middle of the Journey Political Narrations DRINKS BEFORE DINNER The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams Ragtime Study Guide to Ragtime by E. L. Doctorow Ragtime - E. L. Doctorow

### Critical Essays on E.L. Doctorow

To open this book is to enter the perilous, thrilling world of Billy Bathgate, the brazen boy who is accepted into the inner circle of the notorious Dutch Schultz gang. Like an urban Tom Sawyer, Billy takes us along on his fateful adventures as he becomes good-luck charm, apprentice, and finally protégé to one of the great murdering gangsters of the Depression-era underworld in New York City. The luminous transformation of fact into fiction that is E. L. Doctorow's trademark comes to triumphant fruition in Billy Bathgate, a peerless coming-of-age tale and one of Doctorow's boldest and most beloved bestsellers.

### Billy Bathgate

The long-unavailable work by one of America's most eminent writers.

### Ragtime

A deeply psychological tale by the award-winning author of Billy Bathgate recounts the experiences of Andrew, who confesses to an unknown recipient the memory- and truth-challenging events, loves and tragedies that have led him to a mysterious act.

### Homer and Langley

Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary

violence. The Modern Library has played a significant role in American cultural life for the better part of a century. The series was founded in 1917 by the publishers Boni and Liveright and eight years later acquired by Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer. It provided the foundation for their next publishing venture, Random House. The Modern Library has been a staple of the American book trade, providing readers with affordable hardbound editions of important works of literature and thought. For the Modern Library's seventy-fifth anniversary, Random House redesigned the series, restoring as its emblem the running torch-bearer created by Lucian Bernhard in 1925 and refurbishing jackets, bindings, and type, as well as inaugurating a new program of selecting titles. The Modern Library continues to provide the world's best books, at the best prices. "From the Hardcover edition.

## **A Study Guide for E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime"**

A superb collection of fifteen stories by an American master, E. L. Doctorow—the author of *Ragtime*, *The March*, *The Book of Daniel*, and *Billy Bathgate*. He has been called “a national treasure” by George Saunders. Doctorow’s great topic, said Don DeLillo, is “the reach of American possibility, in which plain lives take on the cadences of history.” This power is apparent everywhere in these stories: the bravery and self-delusion of people seeking the American dream; the geniuses, mystics, and charlatans who offer people false hope, or an actual glimpse of greatness. In “A House on the Plains,” a mother has a plan for financial independence, which may include murder. In “Walter John Harmon,” a man starts a cult using subterfuge and seduction. “Jolene: A Life” follows a teenager who escapes her home for Hollywood on a perilous quest for success. “Heist,” the account of an Episcopal priest coping with a crisis of faith, was expanded into the bestseller *City of God*. “The Water Works,” about the underbelly of 1870s New York, grew into a brilliant novel. “Liner Notes: The Songs of Billy Bathgate” is a corollary to the renowned novel and includes Doctorow’s revisions. These fifteen stories, written from the 1960s to the early twenty-first century, and selected, revised, and placed in order by the author himself shortly before he died in 2015, are a testament to the genius of E. L. Doctorow. Praise for Doctorow: *Collected Stories* “Here, without the framework of historical context that defines his best-known novels, we discover a Doctorow equally adept at plumbing the contemporary American psyche and are reminded of literature’s loss following his death in 2015.”—O: *The Oprah Magazine* “These tales—sketches, really, wide-ranging in time, place and circumstances—are penned by a modern master. . . . What makes Doctorow’s historical novels brilliant is their engaging prose, smart writerly style, unconventional narratives and inventive and entertaining plots. Same for these dog-eared, pre-owned stories.”—USA Today “[These stories] remind us of his singular talent. . . . They come together here and underscore a genius at work.”—The National Book Review Praise for E. L. Doctorow “He has rewarded us, these forty-five years, with a vision of ourselves, as a people, a vision possessed of what I might call ‘aspirational verve’—he sees us clearly and tenderly, just as we are, but also sees past that—to what we might, at our best, become.”—George Saunders “Doctorow did not so much write fiction about history as he seemed to occupy history itself. He owned it. He made it his own.”—Tahereh Coates “On every level, [Doctorow’s] work is powerful. . . . His sensitivity to language is perfectly balanced, and complemented by a gigantic vision.”—Jennifer

Egan “[Doctorow wrote] with such stunning audacity that I can still remember my parents’ awed dinner-table conversation, that summer, about a novel they were reading, called Ragtime, that went up to the overgrown wall enclosing the garden of fiction and opened the doorway to history.”—Michael Chabon “Doctorow’s prose tends to create its own landscape, and to become a force that works in opposition to the power of social reality.”—Don DeLillo “A writer of dazzling gifts and boundless imaginative energy.”—Joyce Carol Oates

## **Ragtime**

Amid the professional challenges of defending a wealthy client accused of murdering his wife and helping a rape victim cope with her trauma, William Riordan is also forced to examine his personal life when his wife demands a divorce.

## **The Waterworks**

A Study Guide for E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

## **Mothers and Sons**

E. L. Doctorow is one of America's most accomplished and acclaimed living writers. Winner of the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award (twice), the PEN/Faulkner Award, and the National Humanities Medal, he is the author of nine novels that have explored the drama of American life from the late nineteenth century to the present. Doctorow has also played an active role in transforming his novels into films, writing screenplay adaptations of three of his works -- The Book of Daniel, Ragtime, and Loon Lake. Published here for the first time, his scripts reveal a new aspect of this writer's remarkable talents and offer film students and other cineastes unique insight into the complex relationship of literature and motion pictures. Each of these screenplays has undergone a different fate. Doctorow's script for Daniel was made into a feature film by director Sidney Lumet in 1983. The monumental Ragtime screenplay he wrote for director Robert Altman was to have been filmed as either a six-hour feature film or a ten-hour television series. When Altman was replaced on the project by Milos Forman, a shorter, more conventional script was commissioned from another writer. In 1981, Doctorow adapted Loon Lake, but this challenging work has yet to be filmed. For this book, Doctorow has revised his dazzling Ragtime screenplay, making clear how different the film might have been, and has written a preface about the art of screenwriting. In addition, editor Paul Levine provides a general introduction to Doctorow's fiction and specific introductions to each screenplay; interviews Lumet about making Daniel; and talks with Doctorow about his abiding interest in the art and craft of cinema.

## **Loon Lake**

- Comprehensive reading and study guides for some of the world's most important literary masterpieces. - Concise critical excerpts provide a scholarly overview of each work. - The Story Behind the Story details the conditions under which the work was written. - Each book includes a biographical sketch of the author, a descriptive list of characters, an extensive summary and analysis, and an annotated bibliography

## **World's Fair**

### **Three Screenplays**

Hard Times is the name of a town in the barren hills of the Dakota Territory. To this town there comes one day one of the reckless sociopaths who wander the West to kill and rape and pillage. By the time he is through and has ridden off, Hard Times is a smoking ruin. The de facto mayor, Blue, takes in two survivors of the carnage—a boy, Jimmy, and a prostitute, Molly, who has suffered unspeakably—and makes them his provisional family. Blue begins to rebuild Hard Times, welcoming new settlers, while Molly waits with vengeance in her heart for the return of the outlaw. Here is E. L. Doctorow's debut novel, a searing allegory of frontier life that sets the stage for his subsequent classics. "A forceful, credible story of cowardice and evil." —The Washington Post "We are caught up with these people as real human beings." —Chicago Sun-Times "Dramatic and exciting." —The New York Times "Terse and powerful." —Newsweek "A taut, bloodthirsty read." —The Times Literary Supplement "A superb piece of fiction." —The New Republic

### **Doctorow: Collected Stories**

"Within this collection Doctorow explores the themes of his work not only in the contexts of national and literary history but also in terms of disturbing trends in contemporary American culture. Talking about style, he discusses his experiments with shifting points of view and unreliable narrators as a part of the modernist heritage to which readers have become accustomed. But he stresses that these techniques are always subordinate to the telling of a good story and the creation of memorable characters."—Jacket.

### **The Go-Go Years**

E. L. Doctorow has been hailed as "a writer of dazzling gifts and boundless imaginative energy" (Joyce Carol Oates, *The New Yorker*), "a virtuosic storyteller with enormous range" (*People*), and "a national treasure" (George Saunders). He has achieved a distinguished standing in American letters with his profound fiction, novels of great inventive power. The three bestsellers in this eBook bundle are classic Doctorow. From the defining moments of the Civil War to the heady days of the young twentieth century, the subjects and themes herein span, in the words of Don DeLillo, "the reach of American possibility, in which plain lives take on the cadences of history." RAGTIME "An extraordinarily deft, lyrical, rich novel that catches the spirit of the country . . . in a fluid musical way that is as original as it is satisfying."—*The New Yorker* One lazy Sunday afternoon in 1906 in New Rochelle,

New York, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside the home of an affluent American family. Almost magically, the line between fact and fiction, between real and invented characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's brilliant fictional creations, including an immigrant Jewish peddler and a ragtime pianist from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice brings this shimmering masterpiece to a shocking climax. THE MARCH "Spellbinding . . . a ferocious re-imagining of the past that returns it to us as something powerful and strange."—Time In 1864, Union general William Tecumseh Sherman marched his sixty thousand troops through Georgia to the sea, and then up into the Carolinas. The army fought off Confederate forces, demolished cities, and accumulated a borne-along population of freed blacks and white refugees until all that remained was the dangerous transient life of the dispossessed and the triumphant. In Doctorow's hands the great march becomes a floating world, a nomadic consciousness, and an unforgettable reading experience with awesome relevance to our own times. HOMER & LANGLEY "Beautiful and haunting . . . one of literature's most unlikely picaresques, a road novel in which the rogue heroes can't seem to leave home."—The Boston Globe Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion, hoarding the daily newspapers as research for Langley's proposed dateless newspaper whose reportage will be as prophecy. Even though they want nothing more than to shut out the world, history seems to pass through their cluttered house in the persons of immigrants, prostitutes, society women, government agents, gangsters, jazz musicians . . . and their housebound lives are fraught with odyssean peril as they struggle to survive and create meaning for themselves.

## Creationists

This book analyzes narrations embedded in political disputes, allowing readers to gain a deeper understanding of modern political reality. The author explores this theme in readings of the Sophocles tragedy Antigone, the Melian Dialogue of Thucydides, Heinrich von Kleist's novella Michael Kohlhaas, Fyodor Dostoevsky's The Grand Inquisitor and E.L. Doctorow's Ragtime novel, taking into account the relevant interdisciplinary aspects of the narratives. His study of these four narrations focuses on key political concepts, such as might and right, self-interest, legality and justice, the nation-state and democracy, and relates them compellingly to current actuality. Since narrations can exert comprehensive and lasting influence on individuals' political discernment, this systematic analysis allows for a better comprehension of politics in education and civics.

## All the Time in the World

Typescript, dated Nov. 15, 2009. Lacks music. Heavily marked with colored ink by the videographer. Used by The New York Public Library's Theatre on Film and Tape Archive on Jan. 8, 2010, when videotaping the stage production at the Neil Simon Theatre, New York, N.Y. The production opened on Nov. 15, 2009, and was directed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge.

## **Salmonia**

In a poor, remote section of southern Mexico, the Red Shirts have taken control, God has been outlawed, and the priests have been systematically hunted down and killed. Now, the last priest strives to overcome physical and moral cowardice in order to find redemption. 240 pp.

## **City of God**

Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's devastating march through Georgia and the Carolinas during the final years of the Civil War has a profound impact on the outcome of the war, in a richly textured, evocative historical novel that captures the full experience of the diverse characters caught up in the struggle. Reader's Guide available. Reprint. 350,000 first printing.

## **Jack London, Hemingway, and the Constitution:**

A tale inspired by a true story finds the blind Homer Collyer closeted within a once-grand Fifth Avenue mansion with his damaged brother and remembering a life marked by colorful characters, political events and technological achievements. By the National Book Award-winning author of Billy Bathgate. Reprint. A best-selling novel.

## **Ragtime, The March, and Homer & Langley: Three Bestselling Novels**

### **Violence, Nudity, Adult Content**

Welcome to America at the turn of the twentieth century, where the rhythms of ragtime set the beat. In this chronicle, real-life characters intermingle with three families, one black, one Jewish, and one prosperous WASP, to create a literary mosaic that brings to life an era of poverty, wealth, and incredible change in short, the era of ragtime.

### **Ragtime**

A critical overview of the work features the writings of Barbara L. Estrin, Charles Berryman, Berndt Ostendorf, John G. Parks, John Williams, and other scholars.

### **Ragtime**

E. L. Doctorow is acclaimed internationally for such novels as Ragtime, Billy Bathgate, and The March. Now here are Doctorow's rich, revelatory essays on the nature of imaginative thought. In *Creationists*, Doctorow considers creativity in its many forms: from the literary (Melville and Mark Twain) to the comic (Harpo Marx) to the cosmic (Genesis and Einstein). As he wrestles with the subjects that have teased and fired his own imagination, Doctorow affirms the idea that "we know by what we create." Just what is Melville doing in *Moby-Dick*? And how did The

Adventures of Tom Sawyer impel Mark Twain to radically rewrite what we know as Huckleberry Finn? Can we ever trust what novelists say about their own work? How could Franz Kafka have written a book called *Amerika* without ever leaving Europe? In posing such questions, Doctorow grapples with literary creation not as a critic or as a scholar—but as one working writer frankly contemplating the work of another. It's a perspective that affords him both protean grace and profound insight. Among the essays collected here are Doctorow's musings on the very different Spanish Civil War novels of Ernest Hemingway and André Malraux; a candid assessment of Edgar Allan Poe as our "greatest bad writer"; a bracing analysis of the story of Genesis in which God figures as the most complex and riveting character. Whether he is considering how Harpo Marx opened our eyes to surrealism, the haunting photos with which the late German writer W. G. Sebald illustrated his texts, or the innovations of such literary icons as Heinrich von Kleist, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Sinclair Lewis, Doctorow is unfailingly generous, shrewd, attentive, surprising, and precise. In examining the creative works of different times and disciplines, Doctorow also reveals the source and nature of his own artistry. Rich in aphorism and anecdote, steeped in history and psychology, informed by a lifetime of reading and writing, *Creationists* opens a magnificent window into one of the great creative minds of our time. From the Hardcover edition.

## The Book of Daniel

A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, published the year the Vietnam War came to a close in 1975. As a work of historical fiction, *Ragtime* uses a turn-of-the-century America as a pedestal to showcase issues such as freedom, identity, and justice. Moreover, Doctorow was one of the first to use magic realism to discuss and dissect the nature of change. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Doctorow's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons it has stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.

## Ragtime

The Go-Go Years "The Go-Go Years is not to be read in the usual manner of Wall Street classics. You do not read this book to see our present situation reenacted in the past, with only the names changed. You read it because it is a wonderful description of the way things were in a different time and place." --From the Foreword by Michael Lewis The Go-Go Years is the harrowing and humorous story of the growth stocks of the 1960s and how their meteoric rise caused a multitude of small investors to thrive until the devastating market crashes in the 1970s. It was a time when greed drove the market and fast money was being made and lost as the "go-go" stocks surged and plunged. Included are the stories of such high-profile personalities as H. Ross Perot who lost \$450 million in one day, Saul

Steinberg's attempt to take over Chemical Bank, and the fall of America's "Last Gatsby," Eddie Gilbert. Praise for The Go-Go Years "Those for whom the stock market is mostly a spectator sport will relish the book's verve, color, and memorable one-liners." --New York Review of Books "Please don't take The Go-Go Years too much for granted: as effortlessly as it seems to fly, it is nonetheless an unusually complex and thoughtful work of social history." --New York Times "Brooks's great contribution is his synthesis of all the elements that made the 1960s the most volatile in Wall Street history . and making so much material easily digestible for the uninitiated." --Publishers Weekly "Brooks is about the only writer around who combines a thorough knowledge of finance with the ability to perceive behind the dance of numbers 'high, pure, moral melodrama on the themes of possession, domination, and belonging.'" --Time

## **Andrew's Brain**

Welcome to America at the turn of the twentieth century, where the rhythms of ragtime set the beat. Harry Houdini astonishes audiences with magical feats of escape, the mighty J. P. Morgan dominates the financial world and Henry Ford manufactures cars by making men into machines. Emma Goldman preaches free love and feminism, while ex-chorus girl Evelyn Nesbitt inspires a mad millionaire to murder the architect Stanford White. In this stunningly original chronicle of an age, such real-life characters intermingle with three remarkable families, one black, one Jewish and one prosperous WASP, to create a dazzling literary mosaic that brings to life an era of dire poverty, fabulous wealth, and incredible change - in short, the era of ragtime.

## **Welcome to Hard Times**

## **The Power and the Glory**

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

## **CLASSICS Ragtime**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER With brilliant and audacious strokes, E. L. Doctorow creates a breathtaking collage of memories, events, visions, and provocative

thought, all centered on an idea of the modern reality of God. At the heart of this stylistically daring tour de force is a detective story about a cross that vanishes from a rundown Episcopal church in lower Manhattan only to reappear on the roof of an Upper West Side synagogue. Intrigued by the mystery—and by the maverick rector and the young rabbi investigating the strange act of desecration—is a well-known novelist, whose capacious brain is a virtual repository for the ideas and disasters of the age. Daringly poised at the junction of the sacred and the profane, filled with the sights and sounds of New York, and encompassing a large cast of vividly drawn characters including theologians, scientists, Holocaust survivors, and war veterans, *City of God* is a monumental work of spiritual reflection, philosophy, and history by America's preeminent novelist and chronicler of our time. Praise for *City of God* “A grander perspective on the universe . . . a novel that sets its sights on God.”—*The Wall Street Journal* “Dazzling . . . The true miracle of *City of God* is the way its disparate parts fuse into a consistently enthralling and suspenseful whole.”—*Time* “Blooms with humor, and a humanity that carries triumphant as intelligent a novel as one might hope to find these days.”—*Los Angeles Times* “Radiates [with] panoramic ambition and spiritual incandescence.”—*Chicago Tribune* “One of the greatest American novels of the past fifty years . . . Reading *City of God* restores one's faith in literature.”—*The Houston Chronicle* From the Hardcover edition.

## **The March**

In 1967, Daniel, the son of two convicted spys executed by their own country, ponders his life, his sister's radicalism, his appreciation for his wife and son, and the hypocrisy of the moralistic ideals upon which this country was based. Reader's Guide included. Reprint.

## **Conversations with E.L. Doctorow**

Critics and the public immediately praised E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*; when it was first published in the summer of 1975.

## **The Story Grid**

The hero of this dazzling novel by American master E. L. Doctorow is Joe, a young man on the run in the depths of the Great Depression. A late-summer night finds him alone and shivering beside a railroad track in the Adirondack mountains when a private railcar passes. Brightly lit windows reveal well-dressed men at a table and, in another compartment, a beautiful girl holding up a white dress before her naked form. Joe will follow the track to the mysterious estate at Loon Lake, where he finds the girl along with a tycoon, an aviatrix, a drunken poet, and a covey of gangsters. Here Joe's fate will play out in this powerful story of ambition, aggression, and identity. Loon Lake is another stunning achievement of this acclaimed author. “Powerful . . . [a] complex and haunting meditation on modern American history.” —*The New York Times* “A genuine thriller . . . a marvelous exploration of the complexities and contradictions of the American dream . . . Not under any circumstances would we reveal the truly shattering climax.” —*The Dallas Morning News* “A dazzling performance . . . [Loon Lake] anatomizes America with

insight, passion, and inventiveness.” –The Washington Post Book World “Hypnotic . . . tantalizes long after it has ended.” –Time “Compelling . . . brilliantly done.” –St. Louis Post-Dispatch “A masterpiece.” –Chicago Sun-Times

## Ragtime

Reprint of the original, first published in 1869.

### E.L. Doctorow's Ragtime

WHAT IS THE STORY GRID? The Story Grid is a tool developed by editor Shawn Coyne to analyze stories and provide helpful editorial comments. It's like a CT Scan that takes a photo of the global story and tells the editor or writer what is working, what is not, and what must be done to make what works better and fix what's not. The Story Grid breaks down the component parts of stories to identify the problems. And finding the problems in a story is almost as difficult as the writing of the story itself (maybe even more difficult). The Story Grid is a tool with many applications: 1. It will tell a writer if a Story ?works? or ?doesn't work. 2. It pinpoints story problems but does not emotionally abuse the writer, revealing exactly where a Story (not the person creating the Story'the Story) has failed. 3. It will tell the writer the specific work necessary to fix that Story's problems. 4. It is a tool to re- envision and resuscitate a seemingly irredeemable pile of paper stuck in an attic drawer. 5. It is a tool that can inspire an original creation.

### The Middle of the Journey

“An elegant page-turner of nineteenth-century detective fiction.” –The Washington Post Book World One rainy morning in 1871 in lower Manhattan, Martin Pemberton a freelance writer, sees in a passing stagecoach several elderly men, one of whom he recognizes as his supposedly dead and buried father. While trying to unravel the mystery, Pemberton disappears, sending McIlvaine, his employer, the editor of an evening paper, in pursuit of the truth behind his freelancer’s fate. Layer by layer, McIlvaine reveals a modern metropolis surging with primordial urges and sins, where the Tweed Ring operates the city for its own profit and a conspicuously self-satisfied nouveau-riche ignores the poverty and squalor that surrounds them. In E. L. Doctorow’s skilled hands, *The Waterworks* becomes, in the words of *The New York Times*, “a dark moral tale . . . an eloquently troubling evocation of our past.” “Startling and spellbinding . . . The waters that lave the narrative all run to the great confluence, where the deepest issues of life and death are borne along on the swift, sure vessel of [Doctorow’s] poetic imagination.” –*The New York Times* Book Review “Hypnotic . . . a dazzling romp, an extraordinary read, given strength and grace by the telling, by the poetic voice and controlled cynical lyricism of its streetwise and world-weary narrator.” –*The Philadelphia Inquirer* “A gem of a novel, intimate as chamber music . . . a thriller guaranteed to leave readers with residual chills and shudders.” –*Boston Sunday Herald* “Enthralling . . . a story of debauchery and redemption that is spellbinding from first page to last.” –*Chicago Sun-Times* “An immense, extraordinary achievement.” –*San Francisco Chronicle*

### Political Narrations

At turns funny and powerful, *MOTHERS AND SONS* portrays a woman who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son's partner, who is now married to another man and has a young son. Challenged to face how society has changed around her, generations collide as she revisits the past and begins to see the life her son might have led.

## **DRINKS BEFORE DINNER**

Bernie Rhodenbarr is actually trying to earn an honest living. It's been an entire year since he's entered anyone's abode illegally to help himself to their valuables. But now an unscrupulous landlord's threat to increase Bernie's rent by 1,000% is driving the bookseller and reformed burglar back to a life of crime -- though, in all fairness, it's a very short trip. And when the cops wrongly accuse him of stealing a priceless collection of baseball cards, Bernie's stuck with a worthless alibi since he was busy burgling a different apartment at the time . . . one that happened to contain a dead body locked inside a bathroom. So Bernie has a dilemma. He can trade a burglary charge for a murder rap. Or he can shuffle all the cards himself and try to find the joker in the deck -- someone, perhaps, who believes that homicide is the real Great American Pastime.

## **The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams**

A nostalgic novel evokes a world where fiction and reality meet within the 1930s Bronx childhood of Edgar, growing up through the intensity of the Depression and the dazzling hope of the 1939 New York World's Fair. Reader's Guide included. Winner of the National Book Award. Reissue.

## **Ragtime**

Forty-eight reviews and nine essays trace the critical reputation of E.L. Doctorow's literary works.

## **Study Guide to Ragtime by E. L. Doctorow**

The bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Ragtime* and *Billy Bathgate* has compiled his first collection of essays, a richly textured and detailed combination of literary criticism, political invective, and historical meditation.

## **Ragtime - E. L. Doctorow**

Six short works by the National Book Award-winning author of *Homer & Langley* include the stories of a couple who become estranged after a mysterious man claims he grew up in their house and a Russian bus boy who is entangled in an organized crime ring.

[ROMANCE](#) [ACTION & ADVENTURE](#) [MYSTERY & THRILLER](#) [BIOGRAPHIES & HISTORY](#) [CHILDREN'S](#) [YOUNG ADULT](#) [FANTASY](#) [HISTORICAL FICTION](#) [HORROR](#) [LITERARY FICTION](#) [NON-FICTION](#) [SCIENCE FICTION](#)