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this is the 3rd edition of the american literature textbook revised summer of 2017

for nearly 50 years a trend in african american literary history quarantined the black arts era of the 1960s and 1970s separating it from the brilliantly creative and aesthetically experimental writing that took off in the 1980s according to that history the new literature discarded and distanced the anti aesthetic posture of the black arts moment which emphasized racial tension strident polemics and romantic solidarity with the black underclass yet according to the author the six novels that john edgar wideman wrote from 1987 to 2017 complicate this reductive characterization of the black arts they overflow with the criminal element accused rapists and murderers victims of unsanctioned lynching and sanctioned executions as they engage in aesthetic experimentation they express continuities with a spirit of restless invention and improvisation that derive from an ongoing engagement with african or black atlantic cosmology they thus enable reassessment of the black arts legacy entering the world on their own terms producing their own reality and working through the black arts notion of functional art they are the result of a magical black atlantic craft that brings writing beyond written representation transforming the novel itself into a functional tool a charm

of protection and healing

a comprehensive chronological overview of american literature in three scholarly and authoritative volumes a companion to american literature traces the history and development of american literature from its early origins in native american oral tradition to 21st century digital literature this comprehensive three volume set brings together contributions from a diverse international team of accomplished young scholars and established figures in the field contributors explore a broad range of topics in historical cultural political geographic and technological contexts engaging the work of both well known and non canonical writers of every period volume one is an inclusive and geographically expansive examination of early american literature applying a range of cultural and historical approaches and theoretical models to a dramatically expanded canon of texts volume two covers american literature between 1820 and 1914 focusing on the development of print culture and the literary marketplace the emergence of various literary movements and the impact of social and historical events on writers and writings of the period spanning the 20th and early 21st centuries volume three studies traditional areas of american literature as well as the literature from previously marginalized groups and contemporary writers often overlooked by scholars this inclusive and comprehensive study of american literature examines the influences of race ethnicity gender class and disability on american literature discusses the role of technology in book production and circulation the rise of literacy and changing reading practices and literary forms explores a wide range of writings in multiple genres including novels short stories dramas and a variety of poetic forms as well as autobiographies essays lectures diaries journals letters sermons histories and graphic narratives provides a thematic index that groups chapters by contexts and illustrates their links across different traditional chronological boundaries a companion to american literature is a valuable resource for students coming to the subject for the first time or preparing for field examinations instructors in american literature courses and scholars with more specialized interests in specific authors genres movements or periods

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