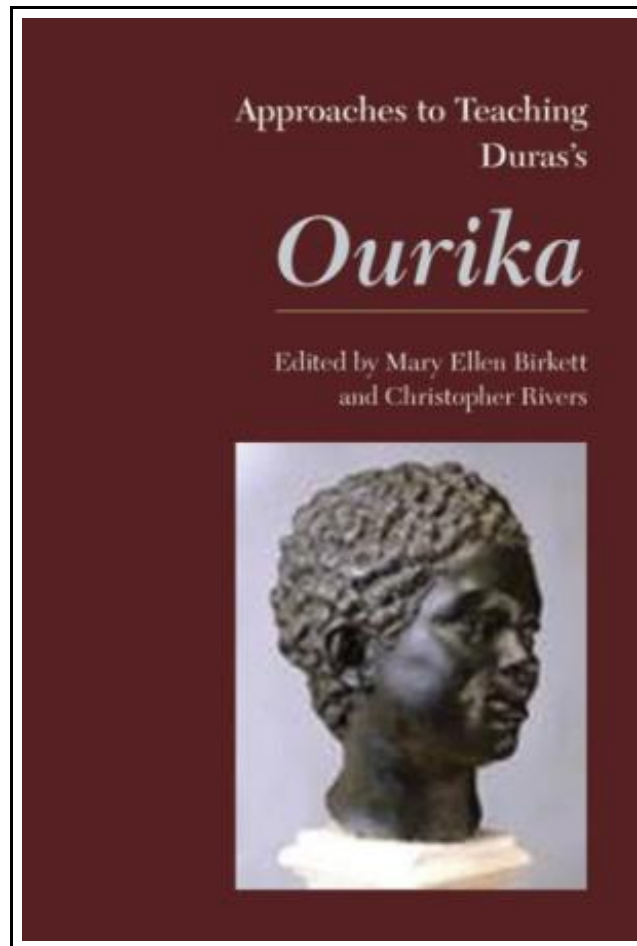


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APPROACHES TO TEACHING DURAS'S OURIKA

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Modern Language Association of America. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Approaches to Teaching Duras's Ourika, Mary Ellen Birkett, When it was first published, in 1823, Claire de Duras's novel *Ourika* became a best seller almost immediately, and in recent decades, instructors have found it an irresistible addition to their syllabi. But from a teacher's perspective the novel presents something of a paradox. It is short, its narrative structure is uncomplicated, its vocabulary is limited, its plot is straightforward. It thus lends itself to "simple" readings that fail to reveal the novel's rich fund of social and historical themes. Set against the backdrop of the French and Haitian revolutions, the Terror, and the restoration and featuring the first black woman narrator in French literature, *Ourika* raises issues of identity, inequality, exclusion, power, and race and gender relations. The goal of this Approaches volume is to help teachers bring out the novel's profound and complex underpinnings and reveal *Ourika*, its Senegalese protagonist, as a victim of history and a timeless tragic heroine. Part 1 provides an overview of editions of the novel and secondary resources, including critical, historical, and biographical studies. Also featured is a useful time line situating Duras's life in its historical framework. Part 2 offers a wealth of pedagogical approaches, grouped in four sections, which focus on the historical context of the novel; on race, gender, and class issues; on teaching *Ourika* with other works of literature; and on interdisciplinary perspectives. Throughout the volume, the editions of *Ourika* referred to are the MLA Texts and Translations paperback editions, in French and in English translation, published in 1994.

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