



Young Lonigan (Penguin Classics)

By James T. Farrell

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The first volume of James T. Farrell's remarkable Studs Lonigan trilogy

An American classic in the vein of John Steinbeck's **The Grapes of Wrath**, the first book of James T. Farrell's powerful **Studs Lonigan** trilogy covers five months of the young hero's life in 1916, when he is sixteen years old. In this relentlessly naturalistic yet richly complex portrait, Studs is carried along by his swaggering and shortsighted companions, his narrow family, and his educational and religious background toward a fate that he resists yet cannot escape.

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Young Lonigan (Penguin Classics) By James T. Farrell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1709112 in Books
- Published on: 2003-06-24
- Released on: 2003-06-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x .60" w x 5.10" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"I read Studs Lonigan my freshman year at Harvard, and it changed my life. . . . I couldn't get over the discovery. I wanted to write"

"Farrell was perhaps the most powerful naturalist who ever worked in the American tradition. . . . Passionately honest and passionately narrow, he brought to his novels the intensity of an autobiographical mission as tortured and complex in its way as Proust."

About the Author

James Thomas Farrell (1904–1979) was born in Chicago to a struggling family of second-generation Irish Catholic immigrants. In 1907, his father, James Farrell, a teamster unable to support his growing family, placed young Jim with his maternal grandparents. It was his grandparents' neighborhood in Chicago's South Fifties that would provide the background to Farrell's **Studs Lonigan** trilogy. Farrell worked his way through the University of Chicago, shedding his Catholic upbringing and absorbing the works of William James, John Dewey, Sigmund Freud, while reading widely in American and European literature: Herman Melville, Sherwood Anderson, H. L. Mencken, Sinclair Lewis, and James Joyce were critical influences on his literary development. "**Slob**" (1929), his first published story, was also his first rendering of the real life "Studs Lonigan," a young man he had known growing up in Chicago. Farrell's first novel, **Young Lonigan** was published in 1932, followed by **The Young Manhood of Studs Lonigan** (1934) and **Judgment Day** (1935)—the three volumes making up his celebrated Studs Lonigan trilogy. A prolific writer, Farrell left more than fifty books of stories and novels behind him when he died in 1979. Alongside his masterpiece **Studs Lonigan**, Farrell's best-known works include the Danny O'Neill novels, **A World I Never Made**, **No Star is Lost**, **Father and Son**, and **My Days of Anger**. James T. Farrell's **Studs Lonigan** trilogy is also available in Penguin Classics.

Ann Douglas teaches English at Columbia University. Her books include **Terrible Honesty: Mongrel Manhattan in the 1920s** and **The Feminization of American Culture**.

Users Review

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