

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition

Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition: An Essential
Resource for Literature Enthusiasts and Educators

Introduction to the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition

Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition stands as a cornerstone in the study and appreciation of American literary history. Renowned for its comprehensive content, meticulous editing, and insightful annotations, this anthology offers a rich exploration of America's literary evolution from the colonial period to contemporary times. Whether you are a student, educator, or avid reader, the 8th edition continues the tradition of providing unparalleled access to influential texts, critical commentary, and cultural context.

What Makes the 8th Edition Stand Out?

Updated Content and Expanded Selections

The 8th edition introduces newly included works and authors, reflecting

the latest scholarship and diverse voices in American literature. This edition emphasizes inclusivity and broadens the scope to encompass writers from various backgrounds, ethnicities, and regions.

Enhanced Pedagogical Features

1. Headnotes: Concise introductions to each author and work, providing historical and literary background.
2. Annotations: Detailed notes clarify language, references, and literary devices.
3. Discussion Questions: Promoting critical thinking and class engagement.
4. Chronologies and Contexts: Visual timelines and thematic essays to situate texts historically and culturally.

Comprehensive and Balanced Selection of Texts

The anthology includes canonical works alongside lesser-known writings, encouraging students to explore a broader spectrum of American literature. This mix ensures a well-rounded understanding of literary movements, themes, and social issues.

Content Overview of the 8th Edition

Historical Scope

The anthology spans from the earliest colonial writings to contemporary voices, showcasing the evolution of American literature across centuries. Key periods covered include:

1. Early American and Colonial Literature
2. Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary Periods
3. Romanticism and Transcendentalism
4. Realism and Naturalism
5. Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance
6. Post-World War II Literature
7. Contemporary American Voices

Representative Authors and Works

The 8th edition features texts by influential authors such as:

1. Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor (Colonial Period)
2. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine (Revolutionary Writings)
3. Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, and Herman Melville (Romanticism)
4. Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson (Transcendentalism)
5. Stephen Crane, Jack London, and Theodore Dreiser (Naturalism and Realism)
6. F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and William Faulkner (Modernism)
7. Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison (Harlem Renaissance)
8. Contemporary authors such as Toni Morrison and Don DeLillo

Key Features of the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition

Authentic and Well-Edited Texts

Each selection is carefully edited for clarity and fidelity to the original, ensuring students engage with authentic language and style.

Rich Visual Content

The anthology incorporates photographs, artwork, and historical documents that complement the literary texts, providing a multidimensional learning experience.

Supplementary Digital Resources

Many editions come with online access, offering:

1. Additional primary sources and essays
2. Interactive quizzes and study guides
3. Audio recordings of authors and readings
4. Video lectures and author interviews

How to Use the Norton Anthology Effectively

For Students

1. Read headnotes and annotations thoroughly to understand context.
2. Engage with discussion questions to deepen comprehension.
3. Compare different authors and periods to recognize literary themes and stylistic evolutions.
4. Utilize digital resources for supplementary insights and practice.

For Educators

1. Design lesson plans around thematic units using selected texts.
2. Encourage students to analyze annotations and historical contexts.
3. Incorporate multimedia resources for dynamic classroom discussions.
4. Assign comparative essays that explore different periods or voices.

Benefits of Incorporating the Norton Anthology into Curriculum

1. Comprehensive coverage of American literary history.
2. Exposure to diverse voices and perspectives.
3. Development of critical reading and analytical skills.
4. Preparation for advanced literary studies or professional pursuits.
5. Foundation for understanding American cultural and social evolution.

Customer Feedback and Reviews

Many users praise the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition for its:

1. Thoroughness and breadth of content
2. Accessible language and explanations
3. High-quality editing and annotation
4. Invaluable supplementary digital materials

Some educators note that the anthology's extensive scope makes it ideal for college courses but recommend supplementing with additional texts for specialized topics.

Where to Purchase and Access

Print and Digital Formats

The anthology is available in hardcover, paperback, and e-book formats through major booksellers, academic stores, and online platforms like:

1. Amazon
2. Barnes & Noble
3. Harvard University Press website
4. Institutional library collections

Online Access and Digital Resources

Many editions include access codes for online components, enabling students and educators to explore interactive content and additional materials through platforms like Norton's website or institutional portals.

Conclusion: Why the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition Remains a Top Choice

The **Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition** continues to be an essential resource for anyone interested in the rich tapestry of American literary history. Its comprehensive selection, thoughtful annotations, and supplementary resources provide a deep understanding of the nation's literary evolution. Whether used as a primary textbook in academic settings or as a personal collection for lovers of literature, this anthology offers invaluable insights into America's cultural and literary

identity.

Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition: A Comprehensive Overview for Readers and Scholars Alike

The Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition stands as a cornerstone in the realm of literary anthologies, widely regarded by students, educators, and literature enthusiasts for its extensive and meticulously curated collection of American literary works. Since its first publication, the Norton Anthology has set a high standard for comprehensive coverage, scholarly rigor, and reader accessibility. As the eighth edition continues this tradition, it offers a fresh, nuanced perspective on the evolving landscape of American literature, making it an essential resource for understanding the cultural, historical, and literary currents shaping the United States.

The Significance of the Norton Anthology in American Literary Studies

To appreciate the importance of the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition, one must first understand its role in shaping literary education. The anthology has been instrumental in:

1. **Providing a Diverse Canon:** Covering works from Indigenous peoples, colonial settlers, abolitionists, modernists, and contemporary voices, the Norton anthology reflects the multifaceted nature of American history and identity.
2. **Serving as an Educational Tool:** Its structured organization, comprehensive annotations, and contextual introductions make it an invaluable resource for classroom teaching and independent study.
3. **Fostering Critical Engagement:** The edition encourages readers to analyze texts within their historical and cultural contexts, promoting a deeper understanding of American society over time.

The 8th edition, published in 2012, builds upon this legacy by incorporating recent scholarship, expanding representation, and integrating digital resources, thus remaining relevant in the digital age.

Content Structure and Organization

The Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition is renowned for its thoughtful organization, which guides readers through the rich tapestry of American literary history.

Chronological and Thematic Arrangement

The anthology is primarily organized chronologically, tracing American literature from its earliest origins through contemporary works. This chronological approach allows readers to observe the evolution of themes, styles, and literary movements across different periods.

Furthermore, thematic sections are interwoven throughout, highlighting recurring motifs such as:

1. Identity and Diversity
2. Freedom and Oppression
3. Nature and the Environment
4. Innovation and Experimentation

This dual focus helps contextualize individual works within broader cultural debates.

Major Sections and Their Highlights

1. Beginnings to 1700: Indigenous oral traditions, early European settlers' narratives, and religious texts.
2. 1700-1820: The colonial and revolutionary eras, with works by Benjamin Franklin, Phillis Wheatley, and Thomas Jefferson.
3. 1820-1865: Romanticism, transcendentalism, abolitionist writings,

including Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Frederick Douglass.

4. 1865-1910: Realism and naturalism, with authors like Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, and Henry James.
5. 1910-1945: Modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Great Depression era, featuring Langston Hughes, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and William Faulkner.
6. Post-1945 to Present: Contemporary voices, including voices of marginalized groups, experimental writers, and global perspectives.

This comprehensive layout ensures that readers gain a chronological understanding while also exploring thematic interconnectedness.

Selection of Texts and Authors

One of the hallmarks of the Norton Anthology is its judicious selection of texts, balancing canonical works with lesser-known pieces that enrich the narrative of American literature.

Canonical Texts

The anthology features seminal works such as:

1. "The Declaration of Independence" by Thomas Jefferson
2. "The Crucible" (excerpts) by Arthur Miller
3. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot
4. "I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman
5. "The Souls of Black Folk" by W.E.B. Du Bois

These texts serve as foundational references for understanding American cultural identity.

Diverse and Marginalized Voices

Recognizing the importance of inclusion, the 8th edition expands its

coverage of voices historically underrepresented in American literature:

1. Indigenous authors like N. Scott Momaday and Sherman Alexie
2. Women writers such as Kate Chopin and Gwendolyn Brooks
3. Latino/a writers including Julia de Burgos and Sandra Cisneros
4. LGBTQ+ voices, like James Baldwin

This diversity reflects contemporary scholarly priorities and offers a more holistic view of America's literary landscape.

Annotations, Introductions, and Critical Apparatus

The Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition excels in providing context-rich annotations and introductions that deepen reader understanding.

1. Headnotes: Each author and work begins with a headnote offering biographical background, historical context, and interpretive insights.
2. Annotations: Marginal notes clarify difficult words, references, and cultural allusions, making the texts accessible without sacrificing complexity.
3. Critical Essays: The edition includes essays and sidebars that explore themes, literary movements, and critical perspectives, encouraging analytical engagement.

This layered approach makes the anthology suitable not only for casual readers but also for advanced students and scholars.

Digital Resources and Supplementary Materials

In response to digital learning trends, the 8th edition of the Norton Anthology offers a suite of online resources:

1. Interactive eText: Enhanced versions of the texts with multimedia annotations.

2. Study Guides: Summaries, questions, and discussion prompts for each section.
3. Audio and Video Content: Recordings of authors, historical readings, and documentary clips.
4. Instructor Resources: Customizable lesson plans, quizzes, and teaching suggestions.

These resources extend the reach of the anthology beyond the printed pages, fostering interactive learning experiences.

Critical Reception and Academic Impact

The Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition has received widespread acclaim for its balanced approach and thorough scholarship. Critics praise it for:

1. Inclusivity: Its concerted effort to include diverse voices and perspectives.
2. Historical Scope: Covering a broad temporal range, from indigenous oral traditions to contemporary digital narratives.
3. Pedagogical Utility: Its clarity and supportive apparatus make it a favorite among educators.

Academic programs worldwide rely on the Norton anthology to introduce students to the complexities of American literature, making it a staple in university curricula.

Challenges and Criticisms

While the anthology is celebrated, it is not without critique:

1. Canon Limitations: Some argue that even with expanded inclusivity, certain voices and works remain underrepresented.
2. Selection Bias: The editorial choices reflect particular scholarly and cultural perspectives, which may influence the representation of

American literary history.

3. Digital Divide: Despite robust online materials, access to digital resources can be uneven in different educational contexts.

Nevertheless, the anthology's ongoing updates and revisions aim to address these issues and reflect evolving scholarly consensus.

Conclusion: A Vital Resource for the Future

The Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition continues to serve as a vital touchstone in the study and appreciation of American literature. Its comprehensive scope, thoughtful organization, inclusive selection, and supportive annotations make it an indispensable resource for students, educators, and general readers alike. As American society becomes increasingly diverse and interconnected, the anthology's role in capturing the multifaceted narrative of the nation remains more relevant than ever.

By bridging the past and present, the 8th edition not only celebrates the rich literary tradition of the United States but also invites ongoing dialogue about identity, culture, and the power of words. For anyone seeking to understand the complex tapestry of American history through its literature, the Norton Anthology stands as a guiding compass—timeless in its scholarship and dynamic in its offerings.

The relationship between people and knowledge has always evolved alongside technology. What once depended on physical libraries, printed pages, and limited distribution channels has now shifted into a far more flexible and accessible form. The ability to download **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** reflects this transition, offering readers a way to engage with information that fits naturally into modern life.

Digital access changes expectations. Readers no longer approach learning with the mindset of scarcity, where books are difficult to find or expensive to obtain. Instead, knowledge feels present and responsive. When a question arises, resources are often only a few clicks away. This immediacy shapes how people think, explore ideas, and deepen understanding over time.

For many users, the appeal begins with speed. Downloading **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** removes delays that once discouraged learning. There is no waiting for deliveries, no concern about store availability, and no limitation imposed by location. Whether someone is studying late at night or researching during work hours, access remains consistent and reliable.

This ease of access has quietly influenced reading habits. Learning no longer requires long, formal sessions planned far in advance. Instead, it happens in smaller moments scattered throughout the day. A chapter read during a commute, a section reviewed before a meeting, or a bookmarked page revisited over coffee all contribute to steady intellectual growth.

Portability plays a key role in sustaining this habit. Digital books allow readers to carry entire collections without physical weight. Moving between topics becomes effortless. One idea naturally leads to another, encouraging exploration rather than restriction. With **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** available digitally, curiosity has room to expand.

The PDF format remains especially popular because of its consistency. Layouts, images, tables, and typography appear exactly as intended, regardless of device. This stability matters for readers who rely on

structure to understand complex material. Academic texts, technical manuals, and reference books benefit greatly from a format that does not shift or distort content.

Beyond presentation, PDFs support interactive tools that improve engagement. Keyword search allows readers to locate information instantly. Highlights and annotations turn reading into an active process. Bookmarks help structure learning paths, especially when revisiting dense or detailed sections. These features make downloadable **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** practical for both deep study and quick reference.

Search functionality alone changes how books are used. Readers no longer need to remember page numbers or scan chapters manually. Concepts can be located within seconds, making digital books efficient companions for problem-solving, research, and revision. This efficiency reduces friction and keeps learning focused.

Cost accessibility further expands the reach of digital books. Many platforms provide free access to public domain works or open-access materials. Resources that were once confined to certain institutions are now available globally. This broader access supports learners from diverse economic backgrounds and encourages self-education.

Platforms such as Project Gutenberg, Open Library, and Internet Archive have become essential in preserving and distributing knowledge. They ensure that important works remain available while respecting legal frameworks. Academic platforms like Academia.edu add depth by offering research papers and scholarly discussions that complement digital books.

Responsible access remains an important consideration. Choosing

legitimate platforms ensures content accuracy, protects devices from security risks, and respects intellectual property. Ethical downloading of **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** supports the creators and institutions that make knowledge available while maintaining trust within the digital ecosystem.

In professional settings, downloadable books function as practical tools rather than static resources. Careers increasingly demand adaptability and continuous learning. Digital access allows professionals to refresh knowledge, explore emerging trends, and verify information without interrupting daily responsibilities.

Students experience similar advantages. Digital materials support flexible study schedules and offline access, making learning more adaptable to individual routines. Notes, highlights, and bookmarks help organize information efficiently. With **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** available digitally, students gain greater control over how and when they study.

Different learning styles benefit from this flexibility. Some readers prefer linear progression, while others move between sections or revisit key ideas repeatedly. Digital formats accommodate both approaches without limitation. Readers interact with **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** according to personal preferences rather than imposed structure.

Accessibility features further extend inclusivity. Adjustable text sizes, text-to-speech options, and screen reader compatibility allow individuals with different needs to engage comfortably with content. These features help ensure that access to knowledge is not limited by physical or technical barriers.

Environmental considerations also influence the shift toward digital reading. While technology has its own environmental footprint, reducing reliance on printed materials lowers paper usage and transportation demands. Digital distribution offers a more efficient way to share information across regions and cultures.

Organization becomes simpler with digital libraries. Files can be categorized, backed up, and synchronized across devices. Over time, readers build collections that reflect evolving interests and goals. Important materials remain easy to retrieve, even years after downloading.

Global reach is another defining aspect of digital books. Downloading **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** removes geographical boundaries, allowing readers from different countries and backgrounds to access the same content. This shared access fosters collaboration, cultural exchange, and broader perspectives.

The psychological impact of easy access should not be underestimated. When learning resources feel readily available, curiosity becomes less restrained. Readers explore topics without hesitation, revisit ideas more often, and engage with content more deeply. Learning becomes part of daily life rather than a separate activity.

Digital access also encourages experimentation. Readers are more willing to explore unfamiliar subjects when the cost and effort of access are low. This openness supports interdisciplinary learning, where ideas from different fields connect in unexpected ways.

For long-term learners, downloadable books provide continuity. Notes remain saved, highlights preserved, and bookmarks intact across

devices. This persistence supports ongoing projects and evolving interests, allowing readers to build knowledge progressively rather than starting from scratch each time.

The role of digital books extends beyond convenience. They shape how information is valued and used. Instead of being consumed once and forgotten, digital materials are revisited, updated, and integrated into broader understanding. With **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** available digitally, knowledge remains active rather than static.

Digital literacy naturally develops through regular interaction with online resources. Managing files, evaluating sources, and navigating digital platforms become familiar skills. These competencies are increasingly important in academic, professional, and personal contexts.

As technology continues to evolve, the presence of digital books will remain central to learning ecosystems. Downloadable resources adapt easily to new devices, platforms, and user needs. This adaptability ensures long-term relevance without requiring fundamental changes in content.

The appeal of downloading **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** ultimately lies in balance. It combines structure with flexibility, depth with accessibility, and tradition with innovation. Readers maintain control over their learning experience while benefiting from modern tools and distribution methods.

Learning does not happen in isolation. Digital books often serve as starting points for broader exploration. Readers move from one source to another, compare perspectives, and engage with ideas more critically.

This interconnected approach strengthens understanding and encourages thoughtful engagement.

The presence of downloadable knowledge also reshapes how people define ownership. Access becomes more important than possession. Readers focus on usability, relevance, and availability rather than physical form. This shift aligns with modern lifestyles that prioritize efficiency and adaptability.

Over time, these small changes accumulate. Habits form, curiosity deepens, and learning becomes continuous. Downloading **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** supports this process by fitting seamlessly into daily routines rather than demanding major adjustments.

Digital books do not replace traditional reading experiences; they expand the ways people interact with information. They allow learning to move fluidly between environments, schedules, and stages of life. With **Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition** available in digital form, knowledge remains present, responsive, and ready to evolve alongside the reader.

Questions & Answers About norton anthology of american literature 8th edition

No	Question	Answer
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1	What are the main features of the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	The 8th Edition offers a comprehensive collection of American literary works, including classic and contemporary writings, along with critical essays, contextual notes, and thematic sections designed to provide a thorough understanding of American literary history.
2	How does the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition differ from previous editions?	The 8th Edition includes updated selections reflecting recent scholarship, new authors, and contemporary voices. It also features expanded critical commentary, revised introductions, and digital resources to enhance student engagement.
3	Are there online resources available for the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	Yes, purchasing the anthology typically grants access to online resources such as the Norton Critical Editions website, offering supplementary materials, quizzes, and interactive content for students and instructors.
4	What types of texts are included in the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	The anthology includes a wide range of texts such as poetry, short stories, essays, speeches, and excerpts from longer works, representing diverse voices across American history and culture.
5	Is the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition suitable for undergraduate courses?	Yes, it is widely used in undergraduate American literature courses due to its comprehensive selection, scholarly commentary, and pedagogical features designed for student learning.
6	How can I access the digital version of the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	The digital version is typically available through Norton's online platform or via institutional access provided by your educational institution. It may be purchased separately or accessed through course subscriptions.

7	What themes are emphasized in the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	Themes such as identity, democracy, race, gender, and cultural diversity are emphasized, highlighting the evolving landscape of American literature and its societal impacts.
8	Does the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition include contemporary authors?	Yes, the 8th Edition features works by contemporary authors alongside classic writers, providing a broader perspective on American literature's ongoing evolution.
9	Can I find supplementary teaching resources for the Norton Anthology of American Literature 8th Edition?	Yes, instructors can access teaching guides, discussion questions, and multimedia resources through Norton's instructor resources portal to enhance their teaching experience.

Norton Anthology, American Literature, 8th Edition, literary anthology, American authors, classic American texts, literature textbook, American writers, literary collection, American literary history

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBook Resource

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks provide structured digital knowledge.

Core Discussion

Digital books help readers maintain productivity.

Practical Use

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks support consistent study routines.

Conclusion

Digital reading improves access to information.

Revisions can be deployed without disruption.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks allow readers to highlight, annotate, and bookmark key sections, enhancing long-term retention and review efficiency.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks provide a structured and reliable way to consume knowledge in an increasingly digital world.

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Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks provide consistent formatting that reduces cognitive load and improves reading flow.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks enable consistent formatting, which improves reading flow.

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study contexts.

By presenting information in a fixed and organized format, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks help reduce ambiguity often found in fragmented online sources.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks empower users to track progress, set learning milestones, and maintain motivation over time.

Educators value Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks for curriculum consistency.

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Structured content improves comprehension and long-term retention.

Ultimately, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks represent a scalable, efficient, and future-oriented approach to knowledge

delivery.

Ultimately, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks represent an efficient, scalable, and sustainable approach to continuous learning.

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The adaptability of Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks makes them suitable for beginners, intermediate learners, and advanced professionals alike.

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The continued adoption of Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks reflects changing learning preferences in the digital age.

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By offering instant access, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks eliminate delays often associated with traditional publishing and physical distribution.

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As digital learning expands, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks maintain relevance.

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Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks reduce time spent searching for reliable information.

Digital materials ensure consistent knowledge transfer across teams.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks function as dependable educational anchors.

Modern learners increasingly value flexibility, immediacy, and control over how they access educational materials.

Readers value Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks for their consistency in structure and presentation.

This integration enhances knowledge management and recall.

Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks provide a structured and reliable way to consume knowledge in an increasingly digital world.

Accurate reference improves outcomes.

By offering instant access, Norton Anthology Of American Literature 8th Edition eBooks eliminate delays often associated with traditional publishing and physical distribution.

Dedicated reading reduces multitasking.

Anchored knowledge supports adaptability.

This ensures learning continuity in low-connectivity situations.

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