

literary theory psychoanalysis

Literary Theory Psychoanalysis: Unlocking the Subconscious in Literature

Introduction:

Ever wondered why a particular character resonates so deeply, or why a seemingly simple plotline evokes such powerful emotions? The answer might lie in the fascinating intersection of literary theory and psychoanalysis. This comprehensive guide delves into the rich tapestry of applying psychoanalytic principles to the interpretation of literature, exploring how unconscious desires, anxieties, and defense mechanisms shape narratives and characters. We'll unpack key concepts, examine influential thinkers, and showcase practical applications to help you unlock a deeper understanding of your favorite literary works. Prepare to see literature through a new, profoundly insightful lens.

1. The Foundations: Freud and the Psychoanalytic Approach

Sigmund Freud's groundbreaking work revolutionized our understanding of the human psyche. His theories, including the Oedipus complex, the id, ego, and superego, and the importance of dreams and symbolism, laid the groundwork for psychoanalytic literary criticism. We'll examine how these fundamental concepts influence the analysis of literary texts, focusing on how unconscious motivations drive character actions and plot developments. For example, analyzing Hamlet through a Freudian lens reveals Hamlet's delayed revenge as a manifestation of his Oedipal conflict and unresolved grief. His inaction can be interpreted as a form of paralysis stemming from his unconscious desire for his mother and repressed rage towards his uncle.

1. Key Psychoanalytic Concepts in Literary Analysis

Beyond Freud's core tenets, several other psychoanalytic concepts prove invaluable in literary analysis. These include:

Defense Mechanisms: Exploring how characters utilize repression, denial, projection, and sublimation to cope with internal conflicts and anxieties. Consider how a character's seemingly irrational behavior might be a manifestation of a specific defense mechanism.

The Unconscious: Unraveling the hidden meanings and symbolism embedded within the text, reflecting the characters' unconscious desires and fears. Examining recurring motifs, dreams, and symbolic imagery provides crucial insights into the underlying psychological themes.

Transference and Countertransference: Analyzing the relationships between characters, considering how they mirror the dynamics of transference and countertransference in real-life relationships. This involves looking at how characters project their unresolved emotional conflicts onto others.

The Oedipus Complex and Electra Complex: Investigating the impact of these complexes on character development and relationships. Understanding how characters grapple with familial conflicts and desires reveals deeper layers of meaning in their actions.

1. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and the Mirror Stage

Jacques Lacan, a prominent figure in post-Freudian psychoanalysis, offered a different perspective. His concept of the "mirror stage" suggests that our sense of self is formed through identification with our own reflection and others. In literary analysis, this concept helps us understand how characters construct their identities and how their relationships with others influence their self-perception. We'll explore how this lens sheds light on themes of alienation, identity formation, and the construction of the "Other."

1. Applying Psychoanalytic Theory: Case Studies

To solidify the concepts, we'll examine specific literary works through a psychoanalytic lens. We'll consider:

Hamlet: Analyzing Hamlet's procrastination, his relationship with his mother, and his internal conflict using Freudian concepts.

Wuthering Heights: Exploring the destructive nature of love and obsession through a psychoanalytic interpretation of Heathcliff and Catherine's relationship.

Beloved: Analyzing the trauma and its psychological impact on Sethe and her descendants.

These analyses demonstrate the power of psychoanalytic criticism in revealing hidden psychological dimensions within the narratives.

1. Criticisms and Limitations of Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism

While immensely valuable, psychoanalytic literary criticism isn't without its limitations. Some critics argue that it can be overly subjective and prone to speculative interpretations. The danger of imposing interpretations onto the text without sufficient textual evidence will be discussed. We will also explore the limitations of applying a specific psychological framework universally across diverse literary traditions and cultural contexts. It's crucial to approach psychoanalytic criticism with a balanced and critical perspective.

Sample Book Outline: "Exploring the Subconscious: A Psychoanalytic Approach to Literature"

Introduction: Defining psychoanalysis and its application to literature. Briefly introducing Freud, Lacan, and other key figures.

Chapter 1: Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory and its Literary Applications: Detailed explanation of Freud's key concepts and their relevance to literary analysis. Case study: Hamlet.

Chapter 2: Beyond Freud: Lacan, Jung, and Other Psychoanalytic Perspectives: Exploring the contributions of other influential psychoanalysts and their unique approaches to literature. Case study: Wuthering Heights.

Chapter 3: Key Psychoanalytic Concepts in Literary Analysis: In-depth exploration of defense mechanisms, the unconscious, transference, and other relevant concepts with literary examples.

Chapter 4: Applying Psychoanalytic Theory to Diverse Literary Genres and Cultures: Demonstrating the applicability of psychoanalytic criticism to various literary genres and cultural contexts, addressing criticisms and limitations. Case studies: Beloved, various poems, and short stories.

Chapter 5: Conclusion: Summarizing the key insights gained from exploring the intersection of literary theory and psychoanalysis. Reflecting on the value and limitations of this approach to literary criticism.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter point above would follow, expanding on each point with relevant examples and scholarly citations. This would significantly increase the word count and require a much lengthier response.)

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis in literary criticism? Freudian analysis focuses on the Oedipus complex, id/ego/superego, and unconscious drives, while Lacanian analysis emphasizes the mirror stage, language, and the construction of the self.
1. Can psychoanalytic criticism be applied to all types of literature? While applicable to many forms, its effectiveness depends on the text's suitability for psychological interpretation.
1. Is psychoanalytic criticism subjective? It has a subjective element, requiring careful attention to textual evidence to support interpretations.
1. What are some common criticisms of psychoanalytic literary criticism? Overly subjective interpretations, ignoring historical context, and imposing a framework onto texts that don't necessarily fit.

1. How can I improve my skills in applying psychoanalytic theory to literature? Read widely in both literary theory and psychoanalysis, practice analyzing texts, and seek feedback from others.
1. Are there any specific literary works particularly well-suited for psychoanalytic interpretation? Works exploring themes of family dynamics, psychological trauma, and internal conflict are often excellent candidates.
1. What are some alternative approaches to literary criticism that can be used alongside psychoanalysis? Marxist, feminist, and post-colonial criticism offer different yet complementary perspectives.
1. How can I find scholarly articles on psychoanalytic literary criticism? Databases like JSTOR, Project MUSE, and academic search engines are valuable resources.
1. Where can I find more information on the history of psychoanalytic literary criticism? Textbooks on literary theory and scholarly articles tracing the development of psychoanalytic criticism will be helpful.

Related Articles:

1. Freud's Oedipus Complex and its Influence on Literature: An exploration of Freud's Oedipus complex and its impact on character development in various literary works.
1. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and the Construction of Identity in Literature: A discussion of Lacan's mirror stage and its application to understanding identity formation in literary characters.
1. Defense Mechanisms in Literature: A Psychoanalytic Perspective: An examination of common defense mechanisms and how they manifest in literary characters' behaviors.

1. The Unconscious in Literature: Symbolism and Hidden Meanings: An analysis of how unconscious desires and fears are expressed through symbolism and imagery in literature.
1. Psychoanalytic Criticism and the Interpretation of Dreams in Literature: An exploration of dream symbolism and its significance in understanding characters' inner lives.
1. Transference and Countertransference in Literary Relationships: An examination of how psychoanalytic concepts of transference and countertransference illuminate character interactions.
1. Applying Psychoanalytic Theory to Shakespearean Tragedy: A case study of how psychoanalytic theory can enhance our understanding of Shakespeare's tragic heroes.
1. Psychoanalytic Approaches to Modern and Postmodern Literature: A comparison of how psychoanalytic theory applies to different literary periods.
1. The Limitations and Criticisms of Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism: A critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of using psychoanalysis in literary studies.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism Maud Ellmann, 2014-01-14 This collection of essays provides students of literary critical theory with an introduction to Freudian methods of interpretation, and shows how those methods have been transformed by recent developments in French psychoanalysis, particularly by the influence of Jacques Lacan. It explains how classical Freudian criticism tended to focus on the thematic content of the literary text, whereas Lacanian criticism focuses on its linguistic structure, redirecting the reader to the words themselves. Concepts and methods are defined by tracing the role played by the drama of Oedipus in the development of psychoanalytic theory and criticism. The essays cover a wide generic scope and are divided into three parts: drama, narrative and poetry. Each is accompanied by explanatory headnotes giving clear definitions of complex terms.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Psychoanalysis and Literary Theory Mathew R. Martin, 2022-08-30 Psychoanalysis and Literary Theory introduces the key concepts, figures and movements of both psychoanalytic theory and the history of literary criticism and theory, engaging with Freud,

Zizek, Plato, posthumanism, and beyond. Divided into two parts - concepts and movements - the structure of the book is clear and accessible. Each chapter builds upon the one before, allowing the reader to progress from little or no background in psychoanalysis, philosophy, or literary theory to the ability to engage actively with the relatively sophisticated ideas presented in later sections of the work. Mathew R. Martin consistently directs attention to the task of interpreting texts by illustrating abstract theoretical points with literary texts and at apposite moments provides brief readings of selected texts. This book will be essential reading for academics and students of psychoanalytic studies, literary criticism, and literary theory.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Psychoanalytic Criticism Elizabeth Wright, 2013-05-28 What is psychoanalytic criticism and how can it be justified as a type of criticism in its own right? In this new and thoroughly revised edition of her classic textbook, Elizabeth Wright provides a cogent answer to this question and a wide-ranging introduction to psychoanalytic criticism from Freud to the present day. Since each school of psychoanalysis has its own theory of the aesthetic process, the field is complex. Adopting a critical perspective, Elizabeth Wright focuses on major figures and texts in psychoanalysis and in literary and art criticism: classical psychoanalysis; Jungian analytic psychology; objects-relations theory; French psychoanalysis; French anti-psychoanalysis; feminist psychoanalytic criticism. Across these divisions certain problems recur, problems which conceal themselves in a wide range of surprising places, from Shakespearean tragedy to performance theatre from magic realism to detective fiction, from the German Lied to Wagner. These areas are investigated with reference to rival psychoanalytic theories, while connections are traced between the aesthetic process and the psychoanalytic approach. Already established as the leading introduction to the field, this new edition of *Psychoanalytic Criticism* will be essential reading for students of literature and literary theory, psychoanalysis, feminism and feminist theory, cultural studies and the humanities generally.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Thresholds and Pathways Between Jung and Lacan Ann Casement, Phil Goss, Dany Nobus, 2020-10-12 This groundbreaking book was seeded by the first-ever joint Jung-Lacan conference on the notion of the sublime held at Cambridge, England, against the backdrop of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. It provides a fascinating range of in-depth psychological perspectives on aspects of creativity and destruction inherent in the monstrous, awe-inspiring sublime. The chapters include some of the outcrop of academic and clinical papers given at this conference, with the addition of new contributions that explore similarities and differences between Jungian and Lacanian thinking on key topics such as language and linguistics, literature, religion, self and subject, science, mathematics and philosophy. The overall objective of this vitalizing volume is the development and dissemination of new ideas that will be of interest to practising psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and academics in the field, as well as to all those who are captivated by the still-revolutionary thinking of Jung and Lacan.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Oscillations of Literary Theory A. C. Facundo, 2016-09-30 *Oscillations of Literary Theory* offers a new psychoanalytic approach to reading literature queerly, one that implicates queer theory without depending on explicit representations of sex or queer identities. By focusing on desire and identifications, A. C. Facundo argues that readers can enjoy the text through a variety of rhythms between two (eroticized) positions: the paranoid imperative and queer reparative. Facundo examines the metaphor of rupture as central to the logic of critique, particularly the project to undo conventional formations of identity and power. To show how readers can rebuild their relational worlds after the rupture, Facundo looks to the themes of the desire for omniscience, the queer pleasure of the text, loss and letting go, and the vanishing points that structure thinking. Analyses of Nabokov's *Lolita*, Danielewski's *House of Leaves*, Findley's *The Wars*, and Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* are included, which model this new approach to reading.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Beyond Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism Benjamin H. Ogden, 2018-04-17 Through a series of radical and innovative chapters, *Beyond Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism: Between Literature and Mind* challenges the tradition of applied psychoanalysis that has long dominated psychoanalytic literary criticism. Benjamin H. Ogden, a literary scholar,

proposes that a new form of analytic literary criticism take its place, one that begins from a place of respect for the mystery of literature and the complexity of its inner workings. In this book, through readings of authors such as J.M. Coetzee, Flannery O'Connor, and Vladimir Nabokov, the mysteries upon which literary works rely for their enduring power are enumerated and studied. Such mysteries are thereafter interwoven into a series of pioneering studies of how the conceptions of thinking, dreaming, and losing become meaningful within the unique aesthetic conditions of individual novels and poems. Each chapter is a provisional solution to the difficult bridging problems that arise when literary figures work in the psychoanalytic space, and when psychoanalysts attempt to make use of literature for analytic purposes. At every turn, *Beyond Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism: Between Literature and Mind* acts as a living example of the territory it explores: the space between two disciplines, wherein the writer brings into being a form of psychoanalytic literary criticism of his own making. Forgoing traditional applied psychoanalysis and technical jargon, this highly accessible, interdisciplinary work will appeal to psychoanalysts and psychoanalytic psychotherapists, as well as literary critics and scholars.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Literature and psychoanalysis* Jeremy Tambling, 2018-07-30 *Literature and Psychoanalysis* is an exciting, and compulsive working through of what Freud really said, and why it is so important, with a chapter on Melanie Klein and object relations theory, and two chapters on Lacan, and his work on the unconscious as structured like a language. Investigating different forms of literature through a careful examination of Shakespeare, Blake, the Sherlock Holmes stories, and many other examples from literature, the book makes the argument for taking literature and psychoanalysis together, and essential to each other. The book places both literature and psychoanalysis into the context of all that has been said about these subjects in recent debates in the theory of Derrida and Foucault and Žižek, and into the context of gender studies and queer theory.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Psychoanalytic Criticism* Elizabeth Wright, 2013-08-21 First published in 2002. Modes and categories inherited from the past no longer seem to fit the reality experienced by a new generation. 'New Accents' is intended as a positive response to the initiative offered by such a situation. Each volume in the series will seek to encourage rather than resist the process of change, to stretch rather than reinforce the boundaries that currently define literature and its academic study. The purpose of this book is to give a critical overview of what has become a very wide field: the relationship of psychoanalytic theory to the theories of literature and the arts, and the way that developments in both domains have brought about changes in critical practice.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Culture* Laura Marcus, Ankhi Mukherjee, 2014-03-31 This concise companion explores the history of psychoanalytic theory and its impact on contemporary literary criticism by tracing its movement across disciplinary and cultural boundaries. Contains original essays by leading scholars, using a wide range of cultural and historical approaches Discusses key concepts in psychoanalysis, such as the role of dreaming, psychosexuality, the unconscious, and the figure of the double, while considering questions of gender, race, asylum and international law, queer theory, time, and memory Spans the fields of psychoanalysis, literature, cultural theory, feminist and gender studies, translation studies, and film. Provides a timely and pertinent assessment of current psychoanalytic methods while also sketching out future directions for theory and interpretation

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Derrida, Deleuze, Psychoanalysis* Gabriele Schwab, 2007-11-23 *Derrida, Deleuze, Psychoanalysis* explores the critical relationship between psychoanalysis and the work of Derrida (*Speech and Phenomena*, *Of Grammatology*, and his later writing on autoimmunity, cruelty, war, and human rights) and Deleuze (*A Thousand Plateaus*, *Anti-Oedipus*, and more). Each essay illuminates a specific aspect of Derrida's and Deleuze's perspectives on psychoanalysis: the human-animal boundary; the child's polymorphism; the face or mouth as constitutive of ethical responsibility toward others; the connections between pain and suffering and political resistance; the role of masochism in psychoanalytic thinking; the use of psychoanalytic secondary revision in theorizing film; and the political dimension of the unconscious.

Placing a particular emphasis on liminal figurations of the human and challenges to discourses on free will, the essays explore shared concerns in Derrida and Deleuze with regard to history, politics, the political unconscious, and resistance. By addressing the need to overcome the split between the psychological and the political, Derrida, Deleuze, Psychoanalysis illuminates the ongoing relevance of psychoanalysis to critical interrogations of culture and politics.

literary theory psychoanalysis: The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Psychoanalysis Vera J. Camden, 2021-12-16 Combining literature and psychoanalysis, this collection foregrounds the work of literary creators as foundational to psychoanalysis.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Psychoanalysis and the Future of Theory Malcolm Bowie, 1993-12-15 Malcolm Bowie is already well known as a writer who has made theory and criticism intelligible to each other in new ways. In this new collection he examines the meanings that psychoanalysis has ascribed to the tense and the devices by which later Lacan completes and complexifies Freud's discussions of temporality. What kind of future can psychoanalysis have when it talks about futurity in this fashion? In answering this question Malcolm Bowie focuses on an exemplary moment of crisis in the history of psychoanalytic thought. He challenges some of the fundamental Freudian assumptions about temporality of discourse and draws attention to a whole new range of opportunities that a future-conscious psychoanalysis might offer critics and theorists of other intellectual persuasions. Bowie calls for a new openness towards art among psychoanalytic theorists, drawing his examples from a wide variety of artistic practices. Musicians (Mozart, Mahler, Schoenberg and Fauré), visual artists (Michelangelo, Leonardo, Tiepolo and Matisse) and writers (Goethe, Proust and Svevo) are all placed in an illuminating two-way relationship with the writings of Freud.

literary theory psychoanalysis: A Companion to Literary Theory David H. Richter, 2018-02-16 Introduces readers to the modes of literary and cultural study of the previous half century A Companion to Literary Theory is a collection of 36 original essays, all by noted scholars in their field, designed to introduce the modes and ideas of contemporary literary and cultural theory. Arranged by topic rather than chronology, in order to highlight the relationships between earlier and most recent theoretical developments, the book groups its chapters into seven convenient sections: I. Literary Form: Narrative and Poetry; II. The Task of Reading; III. Literary Locations and Cultural Studies; IV. The Politics of Literature; V. Identities; VI. Bodies and Their Minds; and VII. Scientific Inflections. Allotting proper space to all areas of theory most relevant today, this comprehensive volume features three dozen masterfully written chapters covering such subjects as: Anglo-American New Criticism; Chicago Formalism; Russian Formalism; Derrida and Deconstruction; Empathy/Affect Studies; Foucault and Poststructuralism; Marx and Marxist Literary Theory; Postcolonial Studies; Ethnic Studies; Gender Theory; Freudian Psychoanalytic Criticism; Cognitive Literary Theory; Evolutionary Literary Theory; Cybernetics and Posthumanism; and much more. Features 36 essays by noted scholars in the field Fills a growing need for companion books that can guide readers through the thicket of ideas, systems, and terminologies Presents important contemporary literary theory while examining those of the past The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Literary Theory will be welcomed by college and university students seeking an accessible and authoritative guide to the complex and often intimidating modes of literary and cultural study of the previous half century.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Wilfred Bion and Literary Criticism Naomi Wynter-Vincent, 2021-12-08 Wilfred Bion and Literary Criticism introduces the work of the British psychoanalyst, Wilfred Bion (1897-1979), and the immense potential of his ideas for thinking about literature, creative process, and creative writing. There is now renewed interest in Bion's work following the publication of his Complete Works but the complexities of his theory and his distinctive style can be forbidding. Less well-known than Freud or Lacan, the work of Wilfred Bion nevertheless offers new insights for psychoanalytic literary criticism and creative writing. For newer readers of his work, this book offers an engaging introduction to several of Bion's key ideas, including his theory of thinking (the 'thought without a thinker'), the container/contained relationship, alpha-function; alpha-elements, beta-elements, and bizarre objects; K and -K; the Grid, O, and the

caesura. It also offers a way in to Bion's astonishing and challenging experimental work, *A Memoir of the Future*, and explores the impact of his devastating personal experiences as an officer during the First World War. Each chapter of *Wilfred Bion and Literary Criticism* draws on one or more specific aspects of Bion's theory in relation to creative texts by Sigmund Freud, Stevie Smith, B.S. Johnson, Mary Butts, Jean Rhys, Nicholas Royle, J.G. Ballard, and Wilfred Bion himself. The first full-length study to explore the potential of Bion's ideas for literary criticism, *Wilfred Bion and Literary Criticism* introduces his complex and extensive work for a new audience in an accessible and engaging way, and will be of great interest to scholars of creative writing, literary criticism, and psychoanalysis.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Lacan and Literature* Ben Stoltzfus, 1996-07-03 Winner of the 1997 Gradiva Award for Best Book (Cultural Arts Related) awarded by the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis (NAAP) Using Lacanian psychoanalytic theory in order to uncover the relationship between literature, reading, and the unconscious, this book argues for a special affinity between a text and its reader. This process strives to unveil the disguises of tropic language in order to generate manifest meaning from latent content. Focusing on five twentieth-century writers: D.H. Lawrence, Ernest Hemingway, Albert Camus, Roland Barthes, and Alain Robbe-Grillet, this book shows how Freud's theories of condensation and displacement in dreams match Lacan's uses of metaphor and metonymy in language. Despite the different backgrounds of these authors from America, England, and France, the unifying theme is that the unconscious (because it is structured like language) is the voice of the (m)Other disguised in figurative language.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Freud's Theory and Its Use in Literary and Cultural Studies* Henk de Berg, 2004 Rarely has a single figure had as much influence on Western thought as Sigmund Freud. His ideas permeate our culture to such a degree that an understanding of them is indispensable. Yet many otherwise well-informed students in the humanities labor under misconceptions or lack of knowledge about Freudian theory. There are countless introductions to Freudian psychoanalysis but, surprisingly, none that combine a genuinely accessible account of Freud's ideas with an introduction to their use in literary and cultural studies, as this book does. It is written specifically for use by advanced undergraduate and graduate students in courses dealing with literary and cultural criticism, yet will also be of interest to the general reader. The book consists of two parts. Part one explains Freud's key ideas, focusing on the role his theories of repression, conscious and unconscious mental processes, sexuality, dreams, free associations, Freudian slips, resistance, and transference play in psychoanalysis, and on the relationship between ego, superego, and id. Here de Berg refutes many popular misconceptions, using examples throughout. The assumption underlying this account is that Freud offers not simply a model of the mind, but an analysis of the relation between the individual and society. Part two discusses the implications of Freudian psychoanalysis for the study of literature and culture. Among the topics analyzed are Hamlet, Heinrich Heine's *Lore-Ley*, Freud's Totem and Taboo and its influence on literature, the German student movement of the late 1960s, and the case of the Belgian pedophile Marc Dutroux and the public reactions to it. Existing books focus either on Freudian psychoanalysis in general or on psychoanalytic literary or cultural criticism; those in the latter category tend to be abstract and theoretical in nature. None of them are suitable for readers who are interested in psychoanalysis as a tool for literary and cultural criticism but have no firm knowledge of Freud's ideas. Freu

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Why Psychoanalysis?* Elisabeth Roudinesco, 2004-03-10 Why do some people still choose psychoanalysis-Freud's so-called talking cure-when numerous medications are available that treat the symptoms of psychic distress so much faster? Elisabeth Roudinesco tackles this difficult question, exploring what she sees as a depressive society: an epidemic of distress addressed only by an increasing reliance on prescription drugs. Far from contesting the efficacy of new medications like Prozac, Zoloft, and Viagra in alleviating the symptoms of any number of mental or nervous conditions, Roudinesco argues that the use of such

drugs fails to solve patients' real problems. In the man who takes Viagra without ever wondering why he is suffering from impotence and the woman who is given antidepressants to deal with the loss of a loved one, Roudinesco sees a society obsessed with efficiency and desperate for the quick fix. She argues that the talking cure and pharmacology represent not just different approaches to psychiatry, but different worldviews. The rush to treat symptoms is itself symptomatic of an antiseptic and depressive culture in which thought is reduced to the firing of neurons and desire is just a chemical secretion. In contrast, psychoanalysis testifies to human freedom and the power of language.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Liberating Oedipus? Filip Kovacevic, 2007 In *Liberating Oedipus?: Psychoanalysis as Critical Theory*, Dr. Filip Kovacevic demonstrates how psychoanalytic theory can join political theory in designing alternative political norms and values. Detailing the thoughts of major psychologists including Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, and Alain Badiou, this book offers a new approach to traditional Lacanian theory. Kovacevic's emphasis on Lacanian psychoanalysis is especially relevant due to the modern challenges of failed globalization and the subsequent terrorist reactions. Kovacevic proves that political practice without an emancipatory psychology to guide it is potentially dangerous. *Liberating Oedipus?* is a critical text for scholars of political theory and those interested in the history of ideas.

literary theory psychoanalysis: The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and Psychoanalysis Jean-Michel Rabaté, 2014-09-22 Taking Sigmund Freud's theories as a point of departure, Jean-Michel Rabaté's book explores the intriguing ties between psychoanalysis and literature.

literary theory psychoanalysis: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Reading Literature Merav Roth, 2019-08-14 What are the unconscious processes involved in reading literature? How does literature influence our psychological development and existential challenges? *A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Reading Literature* offers a unique glimpse into the unconscious psychic processes and development involved in reading. The author listens to the 'free associations' of various literary characters, in numerous scenarios where the characters are themselves reading literature, thus revealing the mysterious ways in which reading literature helps us and contributes to our development. The book offers an introduction both to classic literature (Poe, Proust, Sartre, Semprún, Pessoa, Agnon and more) and to the major psychoanalytic concepts that can be used in reading it – all described and widely explained before being used as tools for interpreting the literary illustrations. The book thus offers a rich lexical psychoanalytic source, alongside its main aim in analysing the reader's psychological mechanisms and development. Psychoanalytic interpretation of those literary readers opens three main avenues to the reader's experience: the transference relations toward the literary characters; the literary work as means to transcend beyond the reader's self-identity and existential boundaries; and mobilization of internal dialectic tensions towards new integration and psychic equilibrium. An Epilogue concludes by emphasising the transformational power embedded in reading literature. The fascinating dialogue between literature and psychoanalysis illuminates hitherto concealed aspects of each discipline and contributes to new insights in both fields. *A Psychoanalytic Perspective on Reading Literature* will be of great interest not only to psychoanalytic-psychotherapists and literature scholars, but also to a wider readership beyond these areas of study.

literary theory psychoanalysis: Introducing Psychoanalytic Theory Sander L. Gilman, 1982

literary theory psychoanalysis: The Academic Face of Psychoanalysis Louise Braddock, Michael Lacewing, 2013-01-11 Ever since Freud, psychoanalysts have explored the connections between psychoanalysis and literature and psychoanalysis and philosophy, while literary criticism, social science and philosophy have all reflected on and made use of ideas from psychoanalytic theory. *The Academic Face of Psychoanalysis* presents contributions from these fields and gives the reader an insight into different understandings and applications of psychoanalytic theory. This book comprises twelve contributions from experts in their fields covering philosophy, psychoanalysis, sociology and literary theory. The chapters are divided into three distinct sections: Psychoanalysis Philosophy Social science and literary theory Louise Braddock and Michael Lacewing successfully

bring these contributions together with an in-depth introduction that allows the reader to explore the connections between the different disciplines. The multi-disciplinary approach to this book is rare; it will appeal to academics and students, from the subject areas of psychoanalysis, humanities and social science.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *The Unspoken Motive* Morton Kaplan, Robert Kloss, 1973 Describes the habits and behavior of the master flyer noted for distance and speed.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Critical Theory Today* Lois Tyson, 2012-09-10 Critical Theory Today is the essential introduction to contemporary critical theory. It provides clear, simple explanations and concrete examples of complex concepts, making a wide variety of commonly used critical theories accessible to novices without sacrificing any theoretical rigor or thoroughness. This new edition provides in-depth coverage of the most common approaches to literary analysis today: feminism, psychoanalysis, Marxism, reader-response theory, new criticism, structuralism and semiotics, deconstruction, new historicism, cultural criticism, lesbian/gay/queer theory, African American criticism, and postcolonial criticism. The chapters provide an extended explanation of each theory, using examples from everyday life, popular culture, and literary texts; a list of specific questions critics who use that theory ask about literary texts; an interpretation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* through the lens of each theory; a list of questions for further practice to guide readers in applying each theory to different literary works; and a bibliography of primary and secondary works for further reading.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *After Lacan* Ankhi Mukherjee, 2018-11 This book explores the phases of Jacques Lacan's career and examines the past, present, and future of psychoanalysis.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Psychoanalytic Criticism* Sue Vice, 1995-12-11 This book is an important analysis of the significant impact of psychoanalytic theory on literature in the post-Freudian era.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Literature and Psychoanalysis* Ruth Parkin-Gounelas, 2001 This is an exploration of ways in which psychoanalytic theory can be put to work in the reading of literary texts. Using psychoanalytic concepts, it analyses a broad range of well known literary texts in different genres.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Russian Literature and Psychoanalysis* Daniel Rancour-Laferrriere, 1989-01-01 This is a collection of psychoanalytical essays on a broad spectrum of well-known Russian authors, such as Puskin, Dostoevsky, Gogol, Belyj, Tjutcev, Axmatova, and Nabokov. The volume includes some reprints, among which a contribution by Sigmund Freud on Dostoevsky and Parricide'. The majority of the contributions are original publications by present-day specialists in the field. This is a book which may benefit literary scholars as well as professional psychoanalysts.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Imagined Human Beings* Bernard J. Paris, 1997-10 One of literature's greatest gifts is its portrayal of realistically drawn characters--human beings in whom we can recognize motivations and emotions. In *Imagined Human Beings*, Bernard J. Paris explores the inner conflicts of some of literature's most famous characters, using Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theories to understand the behavior of these characters as we would the behavior of real people. When realistically drawn characters are understood in psychological terms, they tend to escape their roles in the plot and thus subvert the view of them advanced by the author. A Horneyan approach both alerts us to conflicts between plot and characterization, rhetoric and mimesis, and helps us understand the forces in the author's personality that generate them. The Horneyan model can make sense of thematic inconsistencies by seeing them as the product of the author's inner divisions. Paris uses this approach to explore a wide range of texts, including *Antigone*, *The Clerk's Tale*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Doll's House*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Great Expectations*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Madame Bovary*, *The Awakening*, and *The End of the Road*.

literary theory psychoanalysis: *Discourse in Psychoanalysis and Literature (Routledge Revivals)* Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, 2014-11-13 The essays in this collection, first published in 1987, represent a collective attempt to listen with the third ear to the underhand ways the unspoken has of

speaking, and to speak of these ways. By focusing on 'discourse' the volume is distinguished from traditional literature by its emphasis on rhetorical structures and textual strategies, and the investment of these structures with desire, power and other aspects of subjectivity, rather than the personality of the artist or the creative process. However, in this book the human dimension is not lost. By claiming that the structures in question are not merely linguistic, semiotic, or narratological (although they are all of these), the human dimension is returned- not 'in the raw', as in traditional approaches, but through the traces it leaves in the text, as activated by its reading. This book is ideal for students of literature and psychoanalytical theory.

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