

# psychoanalysis of literature

## Psychoanalysis of Literature: Unlocking the Subconscious in Stories

### Introduction:

Have you ever finished a book and felt a lingering unease, a profound connection to a character's struggles, or a sudden understanding of your own motivations? This visceral response often stems from the power of literature to tap into our deepest, most subconscious desires and anxieties.

Psychoanalysis of literature, a fascinating interdisciplinary field, provides a framework for understanding these powerful effects. This in-depth guide delves into the core principles of psychoanalytic literary criticism, explores key figures and theories, and offers practical examples to illuminate how this approach can enrich your reading experience and deepen your understanding of both literature and the human psyche. We'll uncover how authors unconsciously reveal their own inner worlds through their characters and narratives, and how readers connect with these narratives on a deeply personal level. Prepare to look at your favorite stories with fresh, insightful eyes.

### I. The Foundational Principles of Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism:

Psychoanalytic criticism applies the theories of Sigmund Freud and subsequent psychoanalysts to the interpretation of literature. It moves beyond surface-level plot summaries and character descriptions to explore the underlying psychological motivations driving both the author and the characters. Central to this approach are several key concepts:

**The Unconscious:** Freud's concept of the unconscious mind, a reservoir of repressed desires, memories, and anxieties, is fundamental. Psychoanalytic critics explore how these unconscious elements manifest in literary works through symbolism, imagery, and character behavior. A character's

seemingly irrational actions might reveal hidden desires or unresolved conflicts.

**The Id, Ego, and Superego:** This Freudian tripartite model of the psyche – the impulsive Id, the rational Ego, and the moralizing Superego – provides a framework for understanding character development and conflict. Analyzing characters through this lens reveals the interplay of these forces within individuals and how this internal struggle shapes their actions and relationships.

**Defense Mechanisms:** Characters often employ defense mechanisms, such as repression, denial, projection, and displacement, to cope with anxiety and trauma. Identifying these mechanisms in literary texts reveals deeper psychological truths about the characters and the author's own unconscious processes.

**Oedipus Complex/Electra Complex:** These theories, exploring the complex relationship between children and their parents, particularly focusing on desires for the opposite-sex parent and rivalry with the same-sex parent, have been widely applied to literature to analyze character relationships, power dynamics, and thematic concerns.

**Symbolism and Dreams:** Psychoanalytic critics pay close attention to symbolism and dream sequences, interpreting them as manifestations of unconscious desires and anxieties. These elements can hold crucial keys to unlocking the deeper meanings within a text.

## II. Key Figures in Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism:

Beyond Freud, several significant figures have contributed to the development of psychoanalytic literary theory. These include:

**Jacques Lacan:** Lacan's work expanded on Freud's theories, emphasizing the role of language and the symbolic order in shaping the unconscious. His concept of the "mirror stage," where the self is formed through identification with others, provides a powerful lens for analyzing character development and identity formation in literature.

Carl Jung: Jung's analytical psychology, while diverging from Freud in some aspects, offers valuable insights into archetypes – universal, primordial images and patterns that appear in myths, dreams, and literature. Identifying archetypes in a text can reveal deeper cultural and psychological meanings.

Melanie Klein: Klein's object relations theory focuses on the early relationship between the infant and its primary caregiver, highlighting the impact of these early experiences on the development of personality and relationships. This approach is particularly useful in understanding character relationships and the dynamics of attachment in literature.

### III. Applying Psychoanalytic Criticism: Practical Examples:

To illustrate the practical application of psychoanalytic criticism, consider Hamlet. Hamlet's procrastination in avenging his father's murder can be interpreted through the lens of the Oedipus complex, his repressed desires and anxieties about his relationship with his mother and his uncle. His famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy reveals his internal struggle between life and death, reflecting a deeper psychological conflict. Similarly, exploring the symbolism in Edgar Allan Poe's works reveals a fascination with death and decay that may reflect his own subconscious anxieties and experiences.

### IV. Limitations of Psychoanalytic Criticism:

While a powerful tool, psychoanalytic criticism is not without its limitations. Some critics argue that it can be overly subjective and speculative, leading to interpretations that are not firmly grounded in the text itself. There is also a risk of imposing the critic's own psychological biases onto the work, potentially distorting its meaning. It's crucial to use psychoanalytic criticism judiciously, alongside other critical approaches, for a balanced and comprehensive understanding of the literary text.

### V. Conclusion:

Psychoanalytic literary criticism offers a profound and insightful way to engage with literature. By

exploring the subconscious motivations of both authors and characters, we uncover hidden layers of meaning and deepen our understanding of the human condition. While requiring careful application and awareness of its limitations, the rewards are significant, offering a richer and more nuanced appreciation of the literary works we encounter.

#### Sample Book Outline: "Deconstructing Desire: A Psychoanalytic Journey Through Literature"

Introduction: Defining psychoanalysis and its application to literature. Briefly introducing key psychoanalytic concepts.

Chapter 1: Freud and the Foundations: Detailed exploration of Freud's key theories (Id, Ego, Superego, unconscious, defense mechanisms) and their relevance to literary analysis.

Chapter 2: Beyond Freud: Expanding the Landscape: Examining the contributions of Lacan, Jung, and Klein, showcasing diverse psychoanalytic perspectives.

Chapter 3: Case Studies in Fiction: Analyzing specific literary works (e.g., Hamlet, Wuthering Heights, Beloved) using psychoanalytic lenses.

Chapter 4: Psychoanalysis and the Reader: Exploring the reader's psychological engagement with literature and the therapeutic potential of reading.

Chapter 5: Limitations and Criticisms: Addressing the challenges and potential pitfalls of psychoanalytic literary criticism.

Conclusion: Summarizing key findings and emphasizing the ongoing relevance of psychoanalysis in literary studies.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would be expanded upon in the full book. This is a skeletal outline.)

#### FAQs:

1. What is the difference between psychoanalysis and literary criticism? Psychoanalysis is a psychological theory, while literary criticism is a field of study that analyzes literature. Psychoanalytic literary criticism combines the two, applying psychological principles to interpret literary texts.

1. Can I use psychoanalysis to analyze any type of literature? Yes, the principles of psychoanalysis can be applied to a wide range of literary genres, including novels, plays, poetry, and even film scripts.

1. Is psychoanalytic criticism objective? No, psychoanalytic criticism is inherently subjective, as it involves interpreting the unconscious, which is by its nature, elusive and open to multiple interpretations.

1. How do I start a psychoanalytic analysis of a literary work? Begin by identifying key characters and their relationships, paying close attention to symbolism, imagery, and recurring motifs. Consider the characters' actions and motivations in light of Freudian or other psychoanalytic theories.

1. What are some common pitfalls to avoid when using psychoanalytic criticism? Avoid imposing your own biases onto the text, over-interpreting symbols, and forgetting to consider other critical approaches.
  
1. Can psychoanalysis help me understand my own responses to literature? Yes, by understanding the psychological principles behind literary analysis, you can gain insights into your own emotional and intellectual engagement with the text.
  
1. Are there any ethical considerations when applying psychoanalysis to literature? Yes, be mindful of not making assumptions or judgments about the author's or characters' lives based solely on your interpretation.
  
1. What are some alternative approaches to literary criticism? Feminist criticism, Marxist criticism, postcolonial criticism, and New Criticism are among the many other schools of thought.
  
1. Where can I find more resources on psychoanalytic literary criticism? University libraries, academic journals, and online databases are excellent resources for further research.

## Related Articles:

1. Freud's Influence on Modern Literature: Explores how Freud's theories shaped the themes and techniques of 20th and 21st-century writers.
1. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and the Construction of Identity in Novels: Focuses on Lacan's theories and their application to analyzing character development and identity formation in fiction.
1. Jungian Archetypes in Fairy Tales: Examines the presence of Jungian archetypes in classic fairy tales and their psychological significance.
1. Object Relations Theory and Attachment in Literature: Explores how object relations theory illuminates the dynamics of character relationships and attachment styles in novels.
1. Psychoanalytic Criticism and the Interpretation of Dreams in Literature: Examines how dream sequences in literature reveal unconscious desires and anxieties.
1. The Oedipus Complex in Shakespearean Tragedy: Analyzes the prevalence of the Oedipus complex in Shakespeare's plays and its impact on their dramatic structure.

1. Feminist Psychoanalytic Criticism and the Female Gaze: Explores how feminist perspectives enrich psychoanalytic approaches to understanding female characters.

1. Postcolonial Psychoanalysis and the Literary Representation of Trauma: Explores how postcolonial theory intersects with psychoanalysis to analyze the representation of trauma in literature from colonized cultures.

1. Psychoanalytic Approaches to Children's Literature: Examines the application of psychoanalytic theories to understand the psychological themes and impact of children's stories.

**psychoanalysis of literature:** 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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, Žižek, 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Russian Literature and Psychoanalysis** Daniel Rancour-Laferrière, 1989-01-01 This is a collection of psychoanalytical essays on a broad spectrum of well-known Russian authors, such as Pushkin, 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Essential Papers on Literature and Psychoanalysis** Emanuel Berman, 1993 In a draft attached to a letter to his friend and confidante Wilhelm Fliess (May 31, 1897), Freud develops an idea: The mechanism of fiction is the same as that of hysterical fantasies. He supports this thought with a brief analysis of the biographical sources of Goethe's Werther. A few

months later, on October 15, 1897, Freud mails Fliess a detailed account of remembered events from his childhood that, Freud believed, underlined the universality of Oedipus Rex and Hamlet. Freud's foray into literature initiated the beginning of a new critical approach. In *Essential Papers on Literature and Psychoanalysis*, Emanuel Berman presents classic and contemporary papers written at the intersection of literature and psychoanalysis. In bringing these essays together Berman traces the development of a discipline that has often been plagued by a polarization between self-confident, single-minded psychoanalysts reading literature as a series of case studies and literary loyalists who cling to manifest content or to the declared intentions of the authors, accepting them at face value and depriving the work of its emotional complexity. Berman covers the full range of old and new perspectives, and presents selections from today's mature phase. This collection includes papers by Sigmund Freud, Steven Marcus, Patrick J. Mahoney, Donald Spence, Otto Rank, Ernest Jones, Ernst Kris, Phyllis Greenacre, Florence Bonime and Maryanne Eckardt, David Werman, Ellen Handler Spitz, Jacques Lacan, Shoshana Felman, Norman N. Holland, Roy Schafer, Meredith Anne Skura, Gail S. Reed, Francis Baudry, Rivka R. Eifermann, and Bennett Simon.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *When Nietzsche Wept*** Irvin D. Yalom, 2019-08-06 In nineteenth-century Vienna, a drama of love, fate, and will is played out amid the intellectual ferment that defined the era. Josef Breuer, one of the founding fathers of psychoanalysis, is at the height of his career. Friedrich Nietzsche, Europe's greatest philosopher, is on the brink of suicidal despair, unable to find a cure for the headaches and other ailments that plague him. When he agrees to treat Nietzsche with his experimental "talking cure," Breuer never expects that he too will find solace in their sessions. Only through facing his own inner demons can the gifted healer begin to help his patient. In *When Nietzsche Wept*, Irvin Yalom blends fact and fiction, atmosphere and suspense, to

unfold an unforgettable story about the redemptive power of friendship.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Literature and psychoanalysis : the question of reading:** otherwise Shoshana Felman, 1982

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Psychoanalysis, Literature and War*** Hanna Segal, 2005-10-24 Many of the themes which were elaborated in Hanna Segal's earlier work return in this volume of her most recent papers. Two act as connecting strands and give the book its unity: the clinical usefulness of the concept of the death instinct and the relationship between fantasy and reality. A past mistress at capturing the vitality of the clinical session on the page, Segal shows how the same conflicts between life and death instincts, fantasy and reality, are experienced in the consulting room, reflected in literature, and played out by nations in their attitudes to war. Edited by John Steiner, this collection of writings by a leading psychoanalytic thinker provides a rich source of clinical insights and challenging theory for all analysts practising today.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *The Analyst's Ear and the Critic's Eye*** Benjamin H. Ogden, Thomas H. Ogden, 2013 This book radically redefines the relationship between psychoanalysis and literary studies in a way that revitalizes the conversation between the two fields. This is achieved, in part, by providing richly textured descriptions of analytic work. These clinical illustrations bring to life the intersubjective dimension of analytic practice, which is integral to the book's original conception of psychoanalytic literary criticism. In their readings of seminal works of American and European literature, the authors address questions that are fundamental to psychoanalysis, literary studies, and the future of psychoanalytic literary criticism: What is psychoanalytic literary criticism? -Which concepts are most fundamental to psychoanalytic theory? -What is the role of psychoanalytic theory in reading literature? -How does an analyst's clinical experience shape the way he reads? -How might literary critics make use of the analyst's experience with his patients? -What might psychoanalysts learn from the ways professional literary critics read?.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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*.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Psychoanalysis and Literature*** Marilyn Charles, 2015-03-25 Psychoanalysis offers many concepts that are extremely useful clinically but not always accessible in the original. In *Psychoanalysis and Literature: The Stories We Live*, Marilyn Charles pairs case vignettes with examples from literature to highlight the essential human struggles that play out in the consulting room. This pairing depathologizes those struggles and offers a conceptual framework that can help the clinician facilitate these journeys of discovery. Describing first how literature affords an opportunity for vicarious engagement with struggles endemic to the human condition, she then focuses on trauma, dreams, and 'cultural collisions' turning more explicitly to the developmental challenges of identity, relatedness, aging, and generativity. *Psychoanalysis and Literature* is accessible, relevant, and timely.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Novel Relations*** Alicia Mireles Christoff, 2019-12-17 The first comprehensive look at how Victorian fiction and British psychoanalysis shaped each other *Novel Relations* engages twentieth-century post-Freudian British psychoanalysis in an unprecedented way: as literary theory. Placing the writing of figures like D. W. Winnicott, W. R. Bion, Michael and Enid

Balint, Joan Riviere, Paula Heimann, and Betty Joseph in conversation with canonical Victorian fiction, Alicia Christoff reveals just how much object relations can teach us about how and why we read. These thinkers illustrate the ever-shifting impact our relations with others have on the psyche, and help us see how literary figures—characters, narrators, authors, and other readers—shape and structure us too. For Christoff, novels are charged relational fields. Closely reading novels by George Eliot and Thomas Hardy, Christoff shows that traditional understandings of Victorian fiction change when we fully recognize the object relations of reading. It is not by chance that British psychoanalysis illuminates underappreciated aspects of Victorian fiction so vibrantly: Victorian novels shaped modern psychoanalytic theories of psyche and relationality—including the eclipsing of empire and race in the construction of subject. Relational reading opens up both Victorian fiction and psychoanalysis to wider political and postcolonial dimensions, while prompting a closer engagement with work in such areas as critical race theory and gender and sexuality studies. The first book to examine at length the connections between British psychoanalysis and Victorian fiction, *Novel Relations* describes the impact of literary form on readers and on twentieth- and twenty-first-century theories of the subject.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Jacques Lacan** Jean-Michel Rabaté, 2001-02-20 The French theorist Lacan has always been called a 'literary' theoretician. Here is, for the first time, a complete study of his literary analyses and examples, with an account of the importance of literature in the building of his highly original system of thought. Rabaté offers a systematic genealogy of Lacan's theory of literature, reconstructing a doctrine based upon Freudian insights, and revitalised through close readings of authors as diverse as Poe, Gide, Shakespeare, Plato, Claudel, Genet, Duras and Joyce. Not simply an essay about Lacan's influences or style, this book shows how the emergence of key terms like the 'letter' and the 'symptom' would not have been possible without innovative readings of literary texts.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Holland's Guide to Psychoanalytic Psychology and Literature-and-psychology** Norman Norwood Holland, 1990 As psychoanalysis becomes more and more important to literary studies and the accompanying literature bulks larger and larger, students often feel overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn for readings that will open up the subject. Holland's *Guide to Psychoanalytic Psychology and Literature-and-Psychology* offers an ingenious solution to this problem. It provides concise outlines of all types of psychoanalytic theory and shows how they apply to literary criticism. The outlines point in turn to further, more specific readings--articles, essays, and books--which can then be located by two extensive bibliographies that follow the discussion. These offer materials that range from the earliest Freud to the latest cognitive science and include dozens of bibliographic aids. Holland integrates these suggested readings with lively, detailed comments on various psychologies as they relate to literature. He is thus able to guide students easily to the precise subject they wish to study, be it Jungian criticism, ego psychology, feminist psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic film theory, or interpretation of some specific text. Holland also offers a bracing discussion of reader-response criticism and a lucid guide to the work of Jacques Lacan. A trenchant epilogue defends the psychological approach, suggesting which points in psychoanalytic theory will work for literary critics, and which will not. The only such guidebook for students of psychoanalytic literary theory and literary criticism, Holland's *Guide* will also prove an invaluable aid for those studying psychoanalysis and psychology.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Perversion and Modern Japan*** Nina Cornyetz, J. Keith Vincent, 2010-01-21 How did nerves and neuroses take the place of ghosts and spirits in Meiji Japan? How does Natsume Soseki's canonical novel *Kokoro* pervert the Freudian teleology of sexual development? What do we make of Jacques Lacan's infamous claim that because of the nature of their language the Japanese people were unanalyzable? And how are we to understand the re-awakening of collective memory occasioned by the sudden appearance of a Japanese Imperial soldier stumbling out of the jungle in Guam in 1972? In addressing these and other questions, the essays collected here theorize the relation of unconscious fantasy and perversion to discourses of nation, identity, and history in Japan. Against a tradition that claims that Freud's method, as a

Western discourse, makes a bad 'fit' with Japan, this volume argues that psychoanalytic reading offers valuable insights into the ways in which 'Japan' itself continues to function as a psychic object. By reading a variety of cultural productions as symptomatic elaborations of unconscious and symbolic processes rather than as indexes to cultural truths, the authors combat the truisms of modernization theory and the seductive pull of culturalism. This volume also offers a much needed psychoanalytic alternative to the area studies convention that reads narratives of all sorts as windows offering insights into a fetishized Japanese culture. As such, it will be of huge interest to students and scholars of Japanese literature, history, culture, and psychoanalysis more generally.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Psychoanalysis, Fatherhood, and the Modern Family*** Liliane Weissberg, 2021-10-30 To what extent are the concepts of fatherhood and family, as proposed by Sigmund Freud, still valid? *Psychoanalysis, Fatherhood, and the Modern Family* traces the development of Freud's theory of the Oedipus complex and discusses his ideas in the context of recent psychoanalytic work, new sociological data, and theoretical explorations on gender and diversity. Contributors include representatives from many academic disciplines, as well as practicing psychoanalysts who reflect on their experience with patients. Their exciting essays break new ground in defining who a father is—and what a father may be.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Testimony*** Shoshana Felman, Dori Laub, 2013-10-18 In this unique collection, Yale literary critic Shoshana Felman and psychoanalyst Dori Laub examine the nature and function of memory and the act of witnessing, both in their general relation to the acts of writing and reading, and in their particular relation to the Holocaust. Moving from the literary to the visual, from the artistic to the autobiographical, and from the psychoanalytic to the historical, the book defines for the first time the trauma of the Holocaust as a radical crisis of witnessing the unprecedented historical occurrence of...an event eliminating its own witness. Through the alternation of a literary and clinical perspective, the authors focus on the henceforth modified relation between knowledge and event, literature and evidence, speech and survival, witnessing and ethics.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *Psychoanalysis: A Very Short Introduction*** Daniel Pick, 2015-07-23 Since its inception, psychoanalysis has been hailed as a revolutionary theory of how the mind works, whilst some of its ideas such as the Oedipus complex have become part of everyday conversation. In *Psychoanalysis: A Very Short Introduction*, Daniel Pick offers a lucid, lively, and wide-ranging survey of psychoanalysis. This book offers the reader a flavour of what it might be like to enter treatment, and suggests the possible surprises that can await both analyst and patient, as well as the potential benefits. Yet whilst Freud's writings have shaped the way many of us understand dreams, desires, and destructiveness, as well as anxieties, blunders, and guilt, numerous critics have warned of the dangerous methods and time-bound assumptions of psychoanalysis, doubted the efficacy of its drawn-out methods, and dismissed its core claims as pseudo-science. Looking at modern ideas of the self, exploring the nature of unconscious aspects of relationships, and considering how psychoanalysis has evolved, Pick ponders the particular challenges now facing the analytic profession, and shows why psychoanalysis remains an important resource for investigating the mind, its creative functioning and many afflictions. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

**psychoanalysis of literature: *A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Culture*** Laura Marcus, Ankhi Mukherjee, 2014-06-23 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

**psychoanalysis of literature: Self and Other** Robert Rogers, 1991 In *Self and Other*, Robert Rogers presents a powerful argument for the adoption of a theory of object relations, combining the best features of traditional psychoanalytic theory with contemporary views on attachment behavior and intersubjectivity. Rogers discusses theory in relation both to actual psychoanalytic case histories and imagined selves found in literature, and provides a critical rereading of the case histories of Freud, Winnicott, Lichtenstein, Sechehaye, and Bettelheim. At once scientific and humanistic, *Self and Other* engagingly draws from theoretical, clinical, and literary traditions. It will appeal to psychoanalysts as well as to literary scholars interested in the application of psychoanalysis to literature.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature: Literature, Psychoanalysis and the New Sciences of Mind** Leonard Jackson, 2014-09-11 At a time when psychoanalysis is attacked by biologists, psychologists and literary critics alike, this book offers a radical defence. *Literature, Psychoanalysis and the New Sciences of Mind* gives a clear introduction to the theories of Freud and Jung, the strange linguistic rewriting of Freud by Jacques Lacan. It explores the extraordinary variety of ways in which these writings have been applied to literature and literary theory. But for the first time, they are put in the context of recent biological theories of mind and sexuality.

**psychoanalysis of literature: 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.

**psychoanalysis of literature:** *Psychoanalysis and Cinema* Vicky Lebeau, 2001 Lebeau examines the long and uneven history of developments in modern art, science, and technology that brought psychoanalysis and the cinema together towards the end of the nineteenth century. She explores the subsequent encounters between the two: the seductions of psychoanalysis and cinema as converging, though distinct, ways of talking about dream and desire, image and illusion, shock, and sexuality. Beginning with Freud's encounter with the spectacle of hysteria on display in fin-de-siecle Paris, this study offers a detailed reading of the texts and concepts which generated the field of psychoanalytic film theory.

**psychoanalysis of literature: The Writer and Psychoanalysis** Edmund Bergler, 1992-01 Reprint of the Doubleday edition of 1954. No material has been added. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

**psychoanalysis of literature:** *A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis* Sigmund Freud, 1920

**psychoanalysis of literature:** *Obscenity, Psychoanalysis and Literature* William Simms, 2021-09-05 - Provides the first book-length psychoanalytic reading of landmark obscenity trials - An interdisciplinary study which will appeal to researchers across the fields of psychoanalysis, literature, and law

**psychoanalysis of literature:** *Secrets of the Soul* Eli Zaretsky, 2005-08-09 The fledgling science of psychoanalysis permanently altered the nineteenth-century worldview with its remarkable new insights into human behavior and motivation. It quickly became a benchmark for modernity in the twentieth century--though its durability in the twenty-first may now be in doubt. More than a hundred years after the publication of Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, we're no longer in thrall, says cultural historian Eli Zaretsky, to the "romance" of psychotherapy and the authority of the analyst. Only now do we have enough perspective to assess the successes and shortcomings of psychoanalysis, from its late-Victorian Era beginnings to today's age of psychopharmacology. In *Secrets of the Soul*, Zaretsky charts the divergent schools in the psychoanalytic community and how they evolved--sometimes under pressure--from sexism to feminism, from homophobia to acceptance of diversity, from social control to personal emancipation. From Freud to Zolof, Zaretsky tells the story of what may be the most intimate science of all.

**psychoanalysis of literature: The History Boys** Alan Bennett, 2008-09-04 An unruly bunch of bright, funny sixth-form boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at university. A maverick English teacher at odds with the young and shrewd supply teacher. A headmaster obsessed with results; a history teacher who thinks he's a fool. In Alan Bennett's new play, staff room rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence provoke insistent questions about history and how you teach it; about education and its purpose. The *History Boys* premièred at the National in May 2004. 'Nothing could diminish the incendiary achievement of this subtle, deep-wrought and immensely funny play about the value and meaning of education .. In short, a superb, life-enhancing play.' Guardian



## Additional Resources

psychoanalysis of literature

## [Psychoanalysis Of Literature](#)

Psychoanalysis Of Literature

## Related Articles

- [practice and homework lesson 61 answer key](#)
- [photosynthesis cellular respiration worksheet answer key](#)
- [pre algebra for 6th graders](#)

[Back to Home](#)