



How To Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies

By Robert Dale Parker

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Offering a refreshing combination of accessibility and intellectual rigor, *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*, Third Edition, presents an up-to-date, concise, and wide-ranging historicist survey of contemporary thinking in critical theory. The only book of its kind that thoroughly merges literary studies with cultural studies, this text provides a critical look at the major movements in literary studies since the 1930s, including those often omitted from other texts. It is also the only up-to-date survey of literary theory that devotes extensive treatment to Queer Theory and Postcolonial and Race Studies. *How to Interpret Literature* is ideal as a stand-alone text or in conjunction with an anthology of primary readings such as Robert Dale Parker's *Critical Theory: A Reader for Literary and Cultural Studies*.

Distinctive Features

- * A conversational and engaging tone that speaks directly to today's students
- * Wider coverage than any book of its kind
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Editorial Review

Review

"How to Interpret Literature takes on an immense and formidable task--presenting to students the corpus of twentieth-century literary theory and its differing schools, conflicts, and developments--and it succeeds with a minimum of fuss, grandstanding, ponderousness at synthesizing all of this in one handy volume. Parker's sensitive, responsive, measured, ethically minded, and dazzlingly well-informed approach makes theory lucid, accessible, and inviting while also acknowledging that it is an irreducibly complex, simultaneously graspable intellectual project that demands a lifetime's worth of repeated inquiry."--David Greven, *University of South Carolina*

"A clear, highly readable introduction to critical theory with plenty of fine explanations and illuminating examples drawn from literature, film, and music."--Paul Klemp, *University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh*

"How to Interpret Literature is a clearly written and accessible guide to critical theory for students of English Studies. In this book students will find a friendly and readable guide to complex and often intimidating theoretical concepts."--Richard Zumkhawala-Cook, *Shippensburg University*

About the Author

Robert Dale Parker is James M. Benson Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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