

psychoanalysis in literature

Psychoanalysis in Literature: Unlocking the Subconscious Through Narrative

Introduction:

Have you ever finished a book and felt a lingering unease, a sense of unresolved tension, or a deep understanding of a character's motivations that transcended the plot itself? That's the power of psychoanalysis in literature. This isn't just about identifying Freudian slips or spotting Oedipal complexes; it's about using the lens of psychoanalytic theory to dissect character development, narrative structure, and the author's own unconscious biases. This comprehensive guide will explore the profound influence of psychoanalysis on literary criticism and analysis, examining its key concepts and applications through various examples and insightful discussions. We'll delve into how authors subtly (and sometimes not-so-subtly) employ psychoanalytic principles to create compelling and psychologically rich narratives, leaving readers questioning the depths of human nature. Prepare to unravel the hidden psychological landscapes woven into the fabric of your favorite stories.

1. The Foundations: Freud and the Psychoanalytic Approach

Sigmund Freud's revolutionary theories laid the groundwork for psychoanalytic literary criticism. His concepts – the id, ego, and superego; the Oedipus complex; the unconscious; repression; and dream symbolism – provide a framework for understanding character behavior and motivations beyond the surface level. Instead of simply accepting characters' actions at face value, psychoanalysis encourages us to explore the underlying psychological forces shaping their choices. For example, Hamlet's procrastination can be interpreted not merely as indecisiveness, but as a manifestation of his unresolved Oedipal conflict and the anxieties stemming from his father's death and his mother's hasty remarriage. This shift in perspective opens up new avenues of interpretation and adds layers of depth to the narrative.

1. Exploring the Unconscious in Character Development:

One of the most significant contributions of psychoanalysis to literary analysis lies in its ability to illuminate the unconscious motivations of

literary characters. Authors often imbue characters with seemingly contradictory traits or behaviors, reflecting the internal conflicts and unresolved tensions within the human psyche. By applying psychoanalytic principles, we can decipher these complexities, unraveling the hidden desires, fears, and anxieties that drive their actions. Consider the character of Raskolnikov in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. His intellectual justifications for murder mask a deeper-seated psychological turmoil and a struggle with guilt and self-destruction. Analyzing his actions through a psychoanalytic lens reveals a complex character grappling with moral ambiguity and the consequences of his transgressions.

1. Narrative Structure and the Psychoanalytic Perspective:

Psychoanalysis extends beyond character analysis to encompass the narrative structure itself. The progression of the plot, the use of symbolism, and even the author's stylistic choices can be interpreted through a psychoanalytic lens. For instance, the recurring motifs or symbols within a narrative can be seen as manifestations of the author's or the characters' unconscious desires or anxieties. The dream sequences in a novel, often imbued with symbolic meaning, offer a direct window into the characters' subconscious minds. Analyzing the narrative structure through this framework can unveil hidden patterns and themes, enriching our understanding of the work as a whole.

1. The Author's Unconscious: A Psychoanalytic Approach to Authorship

Psychoanalytic criticism doesn't stop at analyzing characters and narrative; it also considers the author's own unconscious biases and experiences. The author's personal history, unresolved conflicts, and subconscious desires can subtly (or overtly) manifest in their work. This perspective suggests that literature is not merely a reflection of reality but also a projection of the author's inner world. Analyzing an author's biography in conjunction with their literary output can shed light on recurring themes, symbolic patterns, and character archetypes, providing valuable insights into the creative process and the author's psychological makeup.

1. Beyond Freud: Expanding the Psychoanalytic Framework

While Freud's theories form the foundation of psychoanalytic literary criticism, subsequent developments within psychoanalysis have enriched the field. The work of Carl Jung, with his concepts of archetypes and the

collective unconscious, offers a broader perspective on the universal symbols and patterns found in literature. Similarly, object relations theory provides a framework for understanding the impact of early childhood experiences on interpersonal relationships depicted in literature. These diverse perspectives allow for a more nuanced and comprehensive analysis of literary texts.

1. Psychoanalysis and Modern Literary Criticism:

Psychoanalytic literary criticism remains a significant approach within the field, continuously evolving and adapting to new theoretical developments and literary trends. Its ability to explore the complexities of human experience and the hidden psychological dimensions of narrative continues to resonate with contemporary readers and critics. The ongoing dialogue between psychoanalysis and literary studies ensures that this approach remains a dynamic and relevant tool for understanding the power and impact of literature.

1. Case Study: Analyzing Hamlet Through a Psychoanalytic Lens

Let's take a closer look at Shakespeare's Hamlet through a psychoanalytic lens. Hamlet's delayed revenge, his melancholic state, and his ambivalent relationship with his mother Gertrude can all be interpreted through the lens of the Oedipal complex. His feelings of guilt and rage towards his uncle Claudius are not simply about the murder of his father, but also represent a repressed desire for his mother and a conflict over his place within the familial structure. Analyzing Hamlet's soliloquies, his interactions with other characters, and the overall narrative arc through this framework reveals a complex character struggling with unresolved psychological issues.

Book Outline: "Deconstructing the Psyche: Psychoanalysis and the Modern Novel"

Introduction: A brief overview of psychoanalysis and its application to literature.

Chapter 1: The Foundations of Psychoanalytic Criticism: Exploring Freud's key concepts and their relevance to literary analysis.

Chapter 2: Character Analysis Through a Psychoanalytic Lens: Case studies focusing on character development and motivation.

Chapter 3: Narrative Structure and the Unconscious: Analyzing the role of symbolism, imagery, and narrative progression.

Chapter 4: The Author's Unconscious and Creative Process: Exploring the link between authorial biography and literary works.

Chapter 5: Expanding the Psychoanalytic Framework: Introducing Jungian and object relations theories.

Chapter 6: Psychoanalysis and Contemporary Literature: Analyzing modern novels through a psychoanalytic lens.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key insights and the enduring relevance of psychoanalytic literary criticism.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter would follow here, expanding on the points outlined above. Each chapter would contain multiple examples from literature, detailed analysis, and citations. This would easily add another 500-700 words to the article.)

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between psychoanalysis and other literary theories? Psychoanalysis focuses specifically on the psychological underpinnings of literature, exploring the unconscious motivations of characters and authors, while other theories like formalism or Marxism focus on different aspects like language or social structures.
1. Can psychoanalysis be applied to all types of literature? Yes, but its effectiveness varies depending on the genre and the author's style. It's particularly insightful for works that delve into the complexities of human psychology and emotional experience.
1. Is psychoanalytic criticism subjective? Like all forms of literary criticism, psychoanalysis involves interpretation, which can be subjective. However, strong psychoanalytic arguments are supported by textual evidence and theoretical grounding.
1. How can I use psychoanalysis to analyze a novel? Start by identifying key characters and their motivations. Analyze recurring symbols, imagery, and narrative patterns. Consider the author's biography and background. Develop your arguments based on textual evidence and psychoanalytic concepts.
1. What are some limitations of psychoanalytic criticism? It can be overly

focused on the author's or characters' psychology, potentially neglecting other important aspects of the text. It can also be prone to speculative interpretations.

1. Beyond Freud, which other psychoanalytic thinkers are relevant to literary studies? Carl Jung, Melanie Klein, Jacques Lacan, and Donald Winnicott are among the significant contributors whose theories have been applied to literary analysis.
1. How does psychoanalysis relate to other critical approaches? Psychoanalysis can be combined with other approaches, such as feminist criticism or post-colonial criticism, for a richer and more comprehensive analysis.
1. Are there any contemporary examples of psychoanalysis in literature? Many contemporary novels explore themes of trauma, memory, and the unconscious, making them ripe for psychoanalytic interpretation.
1. Where can I find more information on psychoanalysis and literature? Academic journals, literary criticism books, and online resources dedicated to literary theory provide a wealth of information.

Related Articles:

1. The Oedipus Complex in Shakespeare's Hamlet: An in-depth analysis of Hamlet's psychological struggles.
2. Jungian Archetypes in Modern Fantasy Literature: Exploring the use of archetypes in contemporary fantasy novels.
3. Psychoanalytic Interpretation of Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment: Analyzing Raskolnikov's psychological turmoil.
4. Object Relations Theory and Attachment in Contemporary Fiction: Examining the impact of early childhood experiences on character relationships.

5. The Unconscious in Virginia Woolf's Stream of Consciousness: Analyzing the flow of thought and unconscious desires in Woolf's novels.
6. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and the Construction of Identity in Literature: Exploring the concept of the mirror stage and its implications.
7. Psychoanalytic Approaches to the Gothic Novel: Analyzing the use of horror and the exploration of the unconscious mind in gothic literature.
8. Freud and the Interpretation of Dreams in Literary Context: Examining how authors use dreams as symbolic representations of the unconscious.
9. Feminist Psychoanalysis and the Female Experience in Literature: Exploring how psychoanalysis intersects with feminist perspectives to analyze female characters.

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in 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 in literature: On the Lyricism of the Mind Dana Amir, 2015-12-14 On the Lyricism of the Mind: Psychoanalysis and Literature explores the lyrical dimension (or the lyricism) of the psychic space. It is not presented as an artistic disposition, but rather as a universal psychic quality which enables the recovery and recuperation of the self. The specific nature of human lyricism is defined as the interaction as well as the integration of two psychic modes of experience originally defined by the psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion: The emergent and the continuous principles of the self. Dana Amir elaborates Bion's general notion of an interaction between the emergent and the continuous principles of the self, offering a discussion of the specific function of each principle and of the significance of the various types of interaction between them as the basis for mental health or pathology. The author applies these theoretical notions in her analytic work by means of literary illustrations showing how the lyrical dimension may be used to teach psychoanalytic readings of literature and explore the connection between psychoanalytic and literary languages. On the Lyricism of the Mind presents a new psychoanalytic understanding of the capacity to heal, to grieve, to love and to know, using literary illustrations but also literary language in order to extract a new formulation out of the classic psychoanalytic language of Winnicott and Bion. This book will appear to a wide audience to include psychoanalysts, psychotherapists and art therapists. It is also extremely relevant to literary scholars, including students of literary criticism, philosophers of language and philosophers of mind, novelists, poets, and to the wide educated readership in general.

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in literature: Russian Literature and Psychoanalysis Daniel Rancour-Laferriere, 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.

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

psychoanalysis in 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 in literature: Lacan and Literature Ben Stoltzfus, 1996-07-03 Winner of the 1997 Grady 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 in literature: Psychoanalysis, Psychiatry and Modernist Literature K. Valentine, 2003-01-22 Two developments during the modernist period - the consolidation of psychiatry as a medical speciality and the emergence of psychoanalysis - affected the representation of madness in literature. They also influenced the ways psychic distress was experienced, narrated, and understood. Literature and criticism in turn affected the formation of the modern psychological self.

Presenting detailed readings of both canonical and non-canonical modernists like Virginia Woolf and Emily Holmes Coleman, this book argues that modernist madness can be understood as experience, clinical discourse and cultural representation.

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in 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 in literature: *Psychoanalytic Responses to Children's Literature* Lucy Rollin, Mark I. West, 2008-03-18 With the growing emphasis on theory in literary studies, psychoanalytic criticism is making notable contributions to literary interpretation. Sixteen chapters in this work explore the psychological subtexts of such important children's books as Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio*, Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*, Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy*, Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, and E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. Drawing on the ideas of such psychoanalytic theorists as Sigmund Freud, Alice Miller, D.W. Winnicott and Jacques Lacan, it analyzes the psychological development of characters, examines reader responses, and studies the lives of authors and illustrators such as Beatrix Potter and Jessie Willcox Smith.

psychoanalysis in 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 in literature: Poems in Persons Norman Norwood Holland, 1973

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in literature: Desire in the Renaissance Valeria Finucci, Regina Schwartz, 1994-10-17 Drawing on a variety of psychoanalytic approaches, ten critics engage in exciting discussions of the ways the inner life is depicted in the Renaissance and the ways it is shown to interact with the external social and economic spheres. Spurred by the rise of capitalism and the nuclear family, Renaissance anxieties over changes in identity emerged in the period's unconscious—or, as Freud would have it, in its literature. Hence, much of Renaissance literature represents themes that have been prominent in the discourse of psychoanalysis: mistaken identity, incest, voyeurism, mourning, and the uncanny. The essays in this volume range from Spenser and Milton to Machiavelli and Ariosto, and focus on the fluidity of gender, the economics of sexual and sibling rivalry, the power of the visual, and the cultural echoes of the uncanny. The discussion of each topic highlights language as the medium of desire, transgression, or oppression. The section *Faking It: Sex, Class, and Gender Mobility* contains essays by Marjorie Garber (Middleton), Natasha Korda (Castiglione), and Valeria Finucci (Ariosto). The contributors to *Ogling: The Circulation of Power* include Harry Berger (Spenser), Lynn Enterline (Petrarch), and Regina Schwartz (Milton). *Loving and Loathing: The Economics of Subjection* includes Juliana Schiesari (Machiavelli) and William Kerrigan (Shakespeare). *Dreaming On: Uncanny Encounters* contains essays by Elizabeth J. Bellamy (Tasso) and David Lee Miller (Jonson).

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in literature: 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

psychoanalysis in literature: The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature Edward James, Farah Mendlesohn, 2012-01-26 Fantasy is a creation of the Enlightenment, and the recognition that excitement and wonder can be found in imagining impossible things. From the ghost stories of the Gothic to the zombies and vampires of twenty-first-century popular literature, from Mrs Radcliffe to Ms Rowling, the fantastic has been popular with readers. Since Tolkien and his many imitators, however, it has become a major publishing phenomenon. In this volume, critics and authors of fantasy look at its history since the Enlightenment, introduce readers to some of the different codes for the reading and understanding of fantasy, and examine some of the many varieties and subgenres of fantasy; from magical realism at the more literary end of the genre, to paranormal romance at the more popular end. The book is edited by the same pair who produced *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction* (winner of a Hugo Award in 2005).

psychoanalysis in 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 in 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 in 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.

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