

blindness book analysis

Blindness Book Analysis: A Deep Dive into Saramago's Masterpiece

Introduction:

José Saramago's *Blindness* isn't just a novel; it's a chilling allegory exploring humanity's fragility, the erosion of societal structures, and the brutal realities of power in the face of chaos. This comprehensive blindness book analysis will dissect Saramago's masterpiece, exploring its symbolic layers, character development, narrative structure, and enduring relevance in today's world. We will delve into the novel's central themes, examining how Saramago masterfully uses blindness as a metaphor for societal breakdown and the loss of empathy. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of darkness, exploring the profound questions *Blindness* raises about humanity's capacity for both cruelty and compassion. This post offers a detailed analysis, including a structured outline of the book's content, detailed explanations of key elements, and frequently asked questions to solidify your understanding.

I. The Symbolic Power of Blindness:

Blindness in *Blindness* is far more than a physical affliction; it's a potent symbol representing various aspects of human nature and societal decay. The sudden, inexplicable wave of blindness striking the city isn't simply a biological event; it functions as a catalyst, stripping away the veneer of civilization and revealing the primal instincts lurking beneath the surface. Saramago brilliantly uses this sudden loss of sight to expose the vulnerability of societal structures and the fragility of human morality. The initial panic and chaos give way to a brutal struggle for survival, where empathy and compassion are replaced by fear, suspicion, and self-preservation. The blind are stripped of their societal roles, their identities, and their dignity, mirroring the way marginalized groups are often treated in real-world scenarios. This exploration of societal structures through the lens of the unexpected emphasizes the precariousness of order and the ease with which it can crumble.

II. Character Development and Relationships:

Saramago's characters aren't defined by distinct personalities but rather by their actions and reactions within the oppressive environment. The "Doctor's" wife, the only character who retains her sight, acts as a critical observer and reluctant leader, revealing the strengths and weaknesses of humanity under duress. The lack of individual names adds to the novel's allegorical power, emphasizing the universality of the experience and making the characters representatives of various human traits. The relationships formed and fractured within the confines of the asylum highlight the contradictory nature of humanity – the capacity for both profound cruelty and unexpected acts of kindness. The shifting dynamics between characters illustrate the power of desperation and the breaking down of

social constructs in times of extreme hardship.

III. Narrative Structure and Style:

Saramago's distinctive narrative style significantly contributes to the novel's impact. The absence of quotation marks and chapter breaks disrupts the reader's expectations, mimicking the disorienting and chaotic world the characters inhabit. This unconventional structure forces the reader to engage actively with the text, piecing together the narrative and experiencing the unsettling atmosphere firsthand. The third-person narration offers a detached yet emotionally resonant perspective, allowing the reader to observe the characters' actions and contemplate the implications of their choices without being unduly influenced by subjective viewpoints. This unconventional approach intensifies the novel's unsettling atmosphere and forces a more active engagement from the reader.

IV. Themes of Power, Control, and Morality:

Blindness is a potent exploration of power dynamics in extreme circumstances. The strong prey on the weak, order collapses into anarchy, and the basic tenets of morality become blurred. The blind, stripped of their autonomy and agency, become objects of control and manipulation. The emergence of a hierarchical system within the asylum reflects the inherent human tendency to establish dominance and exercise control, even in the most chaotic and desperate environments. Saramago's unflinching portrayal of human nature challenges the reader to confront uncomfortable truths about the capacity for both cruelty and resilience. The ending, while offering a glimmer of hope, leaves the reader with lasting questions about the fragility of civilization and the enduring struggle between good and evil.

V. The Enduring Relevance of Blindness

While published in 1995, *Blindness* retains remarkable relevance in the 21st century. The novel's exploration of societal collapse, the erosion of empathy, and the abuse of power resonates deeply with contemporary issues, including pandemics, social unrest, and political turmoil. The book serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the importance of compassion, solidarity, and the preservation of human dignity, especially during times of crisis. Saramago's allegorical narrative transcends its specific context, making *Blindness* a timeless and enduring work of literature that continues to provoke and challenge readers.

Book Outline: Blindness

By: José Saramago

I. Introduction: The sudden outbreak of blindness in a city, leading to chaos and societal breakdown.

II. Main Chapters:

The First Blind Man: The initial spread of the epidemic and the ensuing panic and confusion.

The Asylum: The establishment of the asylum and the development of a brutal social hierarchy amongst the blind.

The Doctor's Wife's Survival: The challenges faced by the Doctor's Wife as the only sighted person, and her efforts to protect herself and others.

The Formation of Groups and Power Dynamics: The struggle for survival and the emergence of different groups, each characterized by their particular methods and interactions.

The Emergence of Hope and Order: The gradual restoration of order in the midst of chaos and the re-emergence of compassion.

III. Conclusion: The eventual end of the epidemic and the ambiguous nature of the restoration of sight and societal normalcy. The lingering questions about the nature of humanity and societal stability are left unanswered, reinforcing the allegorical nature of the text.

Detailed Explanation of the Outline Points:

I. Introduction: The novel opens abruptly with the first blind man, initiating a chain reaction of blindness that spreads rapidly and inexplicably through the city. This sudden onset of blindness creates immediate chaos, causing societal structures to crumble almost instantly, highlighting the vulnerability of order in the face of the unexpected. The initial reactions of panic, fear, and self-preservation immediately set the stage for the remainder of the novel's trajectory.

II. Main Chapters: Each "chapter" in the novel follows the progression of the blindness epidemic and its impact on the characters. The asylum becomes a microcosm of society, reflecting the breakdown of social order and the emergence of new hierarchies based on power and survival. The Doctor's Wife's maintained sight, even in this world devoid of the capacity for sight, allows her to act as an agent of observation and reluctant leadership. She navigates the difficulties of retaining her humanity in this brutal world. The formation of different factions within the asylum, with their own sets of rules and priorities, highlights the diversity of human responses to adversity, ranging from kindness and compassion to brutality and exploitation. The final stages depict the glimmer of hope and the attempt to rebuild some semblance of order amidst the ongoing chaos.

III. Conclusion: The novel ends ambiguously, leaving the reader to ponder the implications of the events and the future of the characters and society. The sudden return to sight and normalcy brings with it no guarantees of stability or change. The central theme of the novel isn't whether sight is regained, but rather the exploration of the human condition and the fragility of societal structures in the face of crisis. The ending emphasizes the lasting impact of the crisis and the uncertainty of the future.

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of Blindness ? The central theme revolves around the fragility of human civilization and morality when confronted with chaos and the loss of essential societal structures. It explores how blindness, both literal and metaphorical, exposes the underlying flaws of humanity.

1. What is the significance of the lack of names for the characters? The anonymity emphasizes the universality of the human experience and prevents the reader from focusing on individual narratives, thereby emphasizing the allegorical nature of the novel.
1. How does Saramago's writing style contribute to the novel's effect? The lack of quotation marks and chapter breaks disrupts the typical reading experience, mimicking the chaotic and disorienting world of the characters and enhancing the novel's unsettling atmosphere.
1. Is *Blindness* a dystopian novel? While it shares characteristics with dystopian literature, its focus is less on a specific oppressive system and more on the inherent fragility of human society and morality under pressure.
1. What is the role of the Doctor's wife? She is a central figure who represents the persistence of empathy and resilience in the face of societal collapse. Her insight and compassion serve as a counterpoint to the brutality around her.
1. What are the main symbols in *Blindness*? Blindness itself is the central symbol, representing various things from societal breakdown to loss of empathy, moral ambiguity, and the erosion of human values.
1. What is the significance of the ending of *Blindness*? The ending is deliberately ambiguous, highlighting the uncertainty of the future and the lasting impact of trauma and societal upheaval.
1. How does *Blindness* relate to contemporary issues? The novel's themes of societal collapse, loss of empathy, and abuse of power remain highly relevant in the 21st century, reflecting contemporary crises such as pandemics, social unrest, and political instability.
1. Why is *Blindness* considered a significant literary work? *Blindness* is recognized for its

innovative narrative style, powerful allegorical themes, and its exploration of fundamental questions about human nature and society.

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blindness book analysis: Blindness José Saramago, 1999 A stunningly powerful novel of man's will to survive against all odds, by the winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature. This is a shattering work by a literary master.--The Boston Globe A New York Times Notable Book of the Year A Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year A city is hit by an epidemic of white blindness which spares no one. Authorities confine the blind to an empty mental hospital, but there the criminal element holds everyone captive, stealing food rations and raping women. There is one eyewitness to this nightmare who guides seven strangers--among them a boy with no mother, a girl with dark glasses, a dog of tears--through the barren streets, and the procession becomes as uncanny as the surroundings are harrowing. A magnificent parable of loss and disorientation and a vivid evocation of the horrors of the twentieth century, *Blindness* has swept the reading public with its powerful portrayal of man's worst appetites and weaknesses--and man's ultimately exhilarating spirit.

blindness book analysis: Crashing Through Robert Kurson, 2008-08-19 Mike May spent his life crashing through. Blinded at age three, he defied expectations by breaking world records in downhill speed skiing, joining the CIA, and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur, and family man. He had never yearned for vision. Then, in 1999, a chance encounter brought startling news: a revolutionary stem cell transplant surgery could restore May's vision. It would allow him to drive, to read, to see his children's faces. But the procedure was filled with gambles, some of them deadly, others beyond May's wildest dreams. Beautifully written and thrillingly told, *Crashing Through* is a journey of suspense, daring, romance, and insight into the mysteries of vision and the brain. Robert Kurson gives us a fascinating account of one man's choice to explore what it means to see--and to truly live. Praise for the National Bestseller *Crashing Through*: "An incredible human story [told] in gripping fashion . . . a great read." -Chicago Sun-Times "Inspiring." -USA Today "[An] astonishing story . . . memorably told . . . May is remarkable. . . . Don't be surprised if your own vision mists over now and then." -Chicago Tribune "[A] moving account [of] an extraordinary character." -People "Terrific . . . [a] genuinely fascinating account of the nature of human vision." -The Washington Post "Kurson is a man with natural curiosity and one who can feel the excitement life has to offer. One of his great gifts is he makes you feel it, too." -The Kansas City Star "Propulsive . . . a gripping adventure story." -Entertainment Weekly NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

blindness book analysis: Willful Blindness Margaret Heffernan, 2011-03-01 "With deft prose and page after page of keen insights, Heffernan shows why we close our eyes to facts that threaten our families, our livelihood, and our self-image--and, even better, she points the way out of the darkness." --Daniel H. Pink In the tradition of Malcolm Gladwell and Nassim Nicholas Taleb, Margaret Heffernan's *Willful Blindness* is a tour de force on human behavior that will open your eyes. Why, after every major accident and blunder, do we look back and say, How could we have been so blind? Why do some people see what others don't? And how can we change? Drawing on studies by psychologists and neuroscientists, and from interviews with business leaders, whistleblowers, and white collar criminals, distinguished businesswoman and writer Margaret Heffernan examines the phenomenon of willful blindness, exploring the reasons that individuals and groups are blind to impending personal tragedies, corporate collapses, engineering failures--even crimes against humanity. We turn a blind eye in order to feel safe, to avoid conflict, to reduce anxiety, and to protect prestige. But greater understanding leads to solutions, and Heffernan shows

how-by challenging our biases, encouraging debate, discouraging conformity, and not backing away from difficult or complicated problems-we can be more mindful of what's going on around us and be proactive instead of reactive.

blindness book analysis: Seeing José Saramago, 2013-09-20 Despite the heavy rain, the officer at Polling Station 14 finds it odd that by midday on National Election day, only a handful of voters have turned out. Puzzlement swiftly escalates to shock when the final count reveals seventy per cent of the votes are blank. National law decrees the election should be repeated but the result is even worse. The authorities, seized with panic, decamp from the capital and declare a state of emergency. When apathy and disillusionment renders an entire democratic system useless what happens next?

blindness book analysis: Notes on Blindness John Hull, 2017-02-09 A rediscovered modern classic: a life-affirming account of one man's journey into blindness 'A gift to the whole of humanity' Cathy Rentzenbrink Days before the birth of his first son, writer and academic John M. Hull started to go blind. He would lose his sight entirely, unable to distinguish any sense of light or shadow. Isolated and claustrophobic, he sank into a deep depression. Soon, he had forgotten what his wife and daughter looked like. In *Notes on Blindness*, John reveals his profound sense of loss, his altered perceptions of time and space, of waking and sleeping, love and companionship. With astonishing lucidity of thought and no self-pity, he describes the horror of being faceless, and asks what it truly means to be a husband and father. And eventually, he finds a new way of experiencing the world, of seeing the light. Based on John's diaries recorded on audio tape, this is a profoundly moving, wise and life-affirming account of one man's journey into blindness. 'Poignant and wise' Andrew Solomon Published in partnership with Wellcome Collection.

blindness book analysis: The Impending Blindness of Billie Scott Zoe Thorogood, 2021-07-01 Billie Scott is an artist. Her debut gallery exhibition opens in a few months. Within a fortnight she'll be completely blind. Zoe Thorogood's first graphic novel is a story about what it's like to get something you want, have it immediately taken away from you and then how you put it all back together again. Set in a world of people down on their luck from Middlesbrough to London, it's a graphic novel that speaks of post-austerity Britain and the problems facing those left behind. This book is debut work of an exciting author who is a great new talent in the world of comics.

blindness book analysis: There Plant Eyes M. Leona Godin, 2021-06-01 From Homer to Helen Keller, from Dune to Stevie Wonder, from the invention of braille to the science of echolocation, M. Leona Godin explores the fascinating history of blindness, interweaving it with her own story of gradually losing her sight. "[A] thought-provoking mixture of criticism, memoir, and advocacy. —The New Yorker *There Plant Eyes* probes the ways in which blindness has shaped our ocularcentric culture, challenging deeply ingrained ideas about what it means to be "blind." For millennia, blindness has been used to signify such things as thoughtlessness ("blind faith"), irrationality ("blind rage"), and unconsciousness ("blind evolution"). But at the same time, blind people have been othered as the recipients of special powers as compensation for lost sight (from the poetic gifts of John Milton to the heightened senses of the comic book hero Daredevil). Godin—who began losing her vision at age ten—illuminates the often-surprising history of both the condition of blindness and the myths and ideas that have grown up around it over the course of generations. She combines an analysis of blindness in art and culture (from *King Lear* to *Star Wars*) with a study of the science of blindness and key developments in accessibility (the white cane, embossed printing, digital technology) to paint a vivid personal and cultural history. A genre-defying work, *There Plant Eyes* reveals just how essential blindness and vision are to humanity's understanding of itself and the world.

blindness book analysis: The Stone Raft José Saramago, 1996-06-14 A "marvelously amusing" political fable in which part of the European continent breaks off and drifts away on its own (Publishers Weekly, starred review). A Nobel Prize winner who has been called "the García Márquez of Portugal" (New Statesman) chronicles world events on a human scale in this exhilarating allegorical novel. One day, quite inexplicably, the Iberian Peninsula simply breaks free from the

European continent and begins to drift as if it were a sort of stone raft. Panic ensues as residents and tourists attempt to escape, while crowds gather on cliffs to watch the newly formed island sail off into the sea. Meanwhile, five people on the island are drawn together—first by a string of surreal events and then by love. Taking to the road to explore the limits of their now finite land, they find themselves adrift in a world made new by this radical shift in perspective. As bureaucrats ponder what to do about their unusual predicament, the intertwined lives of these five strangers are clarified and forever changed by a physical, spiritual, and sexual voyage to an unknown destination. At once an epic adventure and a profound fable about the state of the European project, *The Stone Raft* is a “hauntingly lyrical narrative with political, social, and moral underpinnings” (Booklist) that “may be Saramago’s finest work” (Los Angeles Times). Translated from the Portuguese by Giovanni Pontiero

blindness book analysis: *Seeing Red* Lina Meruane, 2016-02-01 Meruane's prose has great literary force: it emerges from the hammer blows of conscience, but also from the ungraspable, and from pain.—Roberto Bolaño This powerful, profound autobiographical novel describes a young Chilean writer recently relocated to New York for doctoral work who suffers a stroke, leaving her blind and increasingly dependent on those closest to her. Fiction and autobiography intertwine in an intense, visceral, and caustic novel about the relation between the body, illness, science, and human relationships. Lina Meruane (b. 1970), considered the best woman author of Chile today, has won numerous prestigious international prizes, and lives in New York, where she teaches at NYU.

blindness book analysis: *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis* José Saramago, 1992-04-27 From the Nobel Prize-winning author: “A capacious, funny, threatening novel” of wandering souls and political upheaval in 1930s Portugal (The New York Times Book Review). The year is 1936, and the dictator António de Oliveira Salazar is establishing himself in Portugal, edging his country toward civil war. At the same time, Dr. Ricardo Reis has returned home to Lisbon after a long sojourn in Brazil. What’s brought him back is word that the great poet, Fernando Pessoa, has died. With no intention of resuming his practice, Reis now dabbles in his own poetry, wastes his days strolling the boulevards and back streets, engages in affairs with two different women—and is followed through each excursion by Pessoa’s ghost. As a fascist revolution roils, and as Reis’s path intersects with three relative strangers—two living, one dead—Reis may finally discover the reality of his own chimerical existence. “A rich story about human relationships and dreams.”—The New York Times Called “a magnificent tour-de-force, perhaps one of the best novels published in Europe since World War II” (The Bloomsbury Review) and “altogether remarkable” (The Wall Street Journal), *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis* is a PEN Award winner and stands among the finest works by the author of *Blindness*. Translated by Giovanni Pontiero

blindness book analysis: *Blindness and Autobiography* Fedwa Malti-Douglas, 2014-07-14 The three-volume life-story of the Egyptian intellectual Tahah Husayn (1889-1973) is a landmark in modern autobiography, in Arabic letters, and in the literature of blindness. This justly celebrated text, however, has never been subjected to the sustained literary analysis here presented by Fedwa Malti-Douglas. Born into a modest family and blinded in childhood, Husayn nevertheless conquered first his own and then a European educational system to become one of his country's leading modernizers. Professor Malti-Douglas shows that the personal, social, and literary reality of the hero's blindness gives the autobiography its unity and force. *Blindness and Autobiography* is not only a rich explication of al-Ayyam but a pioneering study of the interaction between a severe physical handicap and the autobiographical process. It adds a new perspective to the contemporary discussion of the cultural uses of the body. The first part of the book explores blindness and society, from the evolving conflict between personal and social conceptions of the handicap to the way blindness redefines the more familiar issues of traditional versus modern, East versus West. The second section examines the relationship of blindness to the autobiography's ecriture, rhetoric, and narration. Originally published in 1988. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of

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blindness book analysis: *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* José Saramago, 1994-09-28 A fictional account of the life of Christ “illuminated by ferocious wit, gentle passion, and poetry”—from the Nobel Prize-winning author of *Skylight* (Los Angeles Times Book Review). For José Saramago, the life of Jesus Christ and the story of his Passion were things of this earth: a child crying, a gust of wind, the caress of a woman half asleep, the bleat of a goat or the bark of a dog, a prayer uttered in the grayish morning light. The Holy Family reflects the real complexities of any family, but this is realism filled with vision, dream, and omen. Saramago’s deft psychological portrait of a savior who is at once the Son of God and a young man of this earth is an expert interweaving of poetry and irony, spirituality and irreverence. The result is nothing less than a brilliant skeptic’s wry inquest into the meaning of God and of human existence. “Enough to assure [Saramago] a place in the universal library and in human memory.”—The Nation “Fiction that engages the mind as well as the spirit.”—Kirkus Reviews “Mixes magic, myth, and reality into a potent brew.”—Booklist Praise for José Saramago “The greatest writer of our time.”—Chicago Tribune “A literary master.”—The Boston Globe “Saramago is the most tender of writers . . . With a clear-eyed and compassionate acknowledgment of things as they are, and a quality that can only be termed wisdom. We should be grateful when it is handed to us in such generous measure.”—The New York Times “Saramago’s fiction operates in a realm not far from fable: the territory of Kafka, Gogol, and Borges.”—Los Angeles Times

blindness book analysis: *Blindness: what it Is, what it Does, and how to Live with it* Thomas J. Carroll, 1961

blindness book analysis: *All the Light We Cannot See* Anthony Doerr, 2014-05-06 *NOW A NETFLIX LIMITED SERIES—from producer and director Shawn Levy (*Stranger Things*) starring Mark Ruffalo, Hugh Laurie, and newcomer Aria Mia Loberti* Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, the beloved instant New York Times bestseller and New York Times Book Review Top 10 Book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the Resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure’s converge. Doerr’s “stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors” (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer “whose sentences never fail to thrill” (Los Angeles Times).

blindness book analysis: *She Is Not Invisible* Marcus Sedgwick, 2014-04-22 Laureth Peak’s father has taught her to look for recurring events, patterns, and numbers—a skill at which she’s remarkably talented. Her secret: She is blind. But when her father goes missing, Laureth and her 7-year-old brother Benjamin are thrust into a mystery that takes them to New York City where surviving will take all her skill at spotting the amazing, shocking, and sometimes dangerous connections in a world full of darkness. Marcus Sedgwick’s *She Is Not Invisible* is an intricate puzzle of a novel that sheds a light on the delicate ties that bind people to each other. This title has

Common Core connections.

blindness book analysis: Haben Haben Girma, 2019-08-06 The incredible life story of Haben Girma, the first Deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School, and her amazing journey from isolation to the world stage. Haben grew up spending summers with her family in the enchanting Eritrean city of Asmara. There, she discovered courage as she faced off against a bull she couldn't see, and found in herself an abiding strength as she absorbed her parents' harrowing experiences during Eritrea's thirty-year war with Ethiopia. Their refugee story inspired her to embark on a quest for knowledge, traveling the world in search of the secret to belonging. She explored numerous fascinating places, including Mali, where she helped build a school under the scorching Saharan sun. Her many adventures over the years range from the hair-raising to the hilarious. Haben defines disability as an opportunity for innovation. She learned non-visual techniques for everything from dancing salsa to handling an electric saw. She developed a text-to-braille communication system that created an exciting new way to connect with people. Haben pioneered her way through obstacles, graduated from Harvard Law, and now uses her talents to advocate for people with disabilities. Haben takes readers through a thrilling game of blind hide-and-seek in Louisiana, a treacherous climb up an iceberg in Alaska, and a magical moment with President Obama at The White House. Warm, funny, thoughtful, and uplifting, this captivating memoir is a testament to one woman's determination to find the keys to connection. This autobiography by a millennial Helen Keller teems with grace and grit. -- O Magazine A profoundly important memoir. -- The Times ** As featured in The Wall Street Journal, People, and on The TODAY Show ** A New York Times New & Noteworthy Pick ** An O Magazine Book of the Month Pick ** A Publishers Weekly Bestseller **

blindness book analysis: *The History of the Siege of Lisbon* José Saramago, 1998-09-01 A proofreader realizes his power to edit the truth on a whim, in a "brilliantly original" novel by a Nobel Prize winner (Los Angeles Times Book Review). Raimundo Silva is a middle-aged, celibate clerk, proofing manuscripts for a respectable publishing house. Fluent in Portuguese, he has been assigned to work on a standard history of the country, and the twelfth-century king who laid siege to Lisbon. In a moment of subversive daring, Raimundo decides to change just one single word of text—a capricious revision that completely undoes the past. When discovered, his insolent disregard for facts appalls his employers—save for his new editor, Maria Sara. She suggests that Rainmundo take his transgressions even further. Through Rainmundo and Maria's eyes, what transpires is an alternate view of history and a colorful reinvention of a debatable truth. It's a serpentine journey through time where past and present converge, fact becomes myth, and fiction and reality blur—especially for Rainmundo and Maria themselves, who begin to find themselves erotically drawn to each other. "Walter Mitty has nothing on Raimundo Silva . . . this hypnotic tale is a great comic romp through history, language and the imagination." —Publishers Weekly Translated by Giovanni Pontiero

blindness book analysis: *What to Look for in Winter* Candia McWilliam, 2012-03-20 The British literary sensation—"the most startling, discomfiting, complicated, ungovernable, hilarious and heart-rending of memoirs " (The Telegraph)—the story of a celebrated writer's sudden descent into blindness, and of the redemptive journey into the past that her loss of sight sets in motion. Candia McWilliam, whose novels *A Case of Knives*, *A Little Stranger*, and *Debatable Land* made her a reader favorite throughout the United Kingdom and around the world, here breaks her decade-long silence with a searing, intimate memoir that fans of Lorna Sage's *Bad Blood*, Mary Karr's *Lit*, and Diana Athill's *Somewhere Toward the End* will agree "cements her status as one of our most important literary writers beyond question" (Financial Times).

blindness book analysis: *Blindness* by José Saramago (*Book Analysis*) Bright Summaries, 2016-10-12 In this clear and detailed reading guide, we've done all the hard work for you! *Blindness* tells the story of a group of people who, for some unknown reason, suddenly lose their sight. They are all sent to an asylum where the inmates quickly turn to violence and force to get what they want. As tensions grow and people become increasingly dehumanised, everybody wants to escape. But without knowing what caused the blindness epidemic, how can anybody stop it? Find out everything

you need to know about Blindness in just a few minutes! This practical and insightful reading guide includes: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you in your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

blindness book analysis: *Moral Blindness* Zygmunt Bauman, Leonidas Donskis, 2013-04-24 Evil is not confined to war or to circumstances in which people are acting under extreme duress. Today it more frequently reveals itself in the everyday insensitivity to the suffering of others, in the inability or refusal to understand them and in the casual turning away of one's ethical gaze. Evil and moral blindness lurk in what we take as normality and in the triviality and banality of everyday life, and not just in the abnormal and exceptional cases. The distinctive kind of moral blindness that characterizes our societies is brilliantly analysed by Zygmunt Bauman and Leonidas Donskis through the concept of *adiaphora*: the placing of certain acts or categories of human beings outside of the universe of moral obligations and evaluations. *Adiaphora* implies an attitude of indifference to what is happening in the world – a moral numbness. In a life where rhythms are dictated by ratings wars and box-office returns, where people are preoccupied with the latest gadgets and forms of gossip, in our 'hurried life' where attention rarely has time to settle on any issue of importance, we are at serious risk of losing our sensitivity to the plight of the other. Only celebrities or media stars can expect to be noticed in a society stuffed with sensational, valueless information. This probing inquiry into the fate of our moral sensibilities will be of great interest to anyone concerned with the most profound changes that are silently shaping the lives of everyone in our contemporary liquid-modern world.

blindness book analysis: *Blindness* Henry Green, 1926

blindness book analysis: *Blindness and Enlightenment: An Essay* Kate E. Tunstall, 2011-08-18 *Blindness and Enlightenment* presents a reading and a new translation of Diderot's Letter on the Blind. Diderot was the editor of the *Encyclopédie*, that Trojan horse of Enlightenment ideas, as well as a novelist, playwright, art critic and philosopher. His Letter on the Blind of 1749 is essential reading for anyone interested in Enlightenment philosophy or eighteenth-century literature because it contradicts a central assumption of Western literature and philosophy, and of the Enlightenment in particular, namely that moral and philosophical insight is dependent on seeing. Kate Tunstall's essay guides the reader through the Letter, its anecdotes, ideas and its conversational mode of presenting them, and it situates the Letter in relation both to the *Encyclopédie* and to a rich tradition of writing about and, most importantly, talking and listening to the blind.

blindness book analysis: *Blind* Rachel DeWoskin, 2016-04-05 First published in hardcover by Viking, 2014.

blindness book analysis: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* 3E Thomas C. Foster, 2024-11-05 Thoroughly revised and expanded for a new generation of readers, this classic guide to enjoying literature to its fullest—a lively, enlightening, and entertaining introduction to a diverse range of writing and literary devices that enrich these works, including symbols, themes, and contexts—teaches you how to make your everyday reading experience richer and more rewarding. While books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings beneath the surface. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the practiced analytical eye—and the literary codes—of a college professor. What does it mean when a protagonist is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Thomas C. Foster provides answers to these questions as he explores every aspect of fiction, from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form. Offering a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—he shows us how to make our reading experience more intellectually satisfying and fun. The world, and curricula, have changed. This third edition has been thoroughly revised to

reflect those changes, and features new chapters, a new preface and epilogue, as well as fresh teaching points Foster has developed over the past decade. Foster updates the books he discusses to include more diverse, inclusive, and modern works, such as Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*; Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*; Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*; Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X*; Helen Oyeyemi's *Mr. Fox and Boy*, *Snow, Bird*; Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*; Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*; Madeline Miller's *Circe*; Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls*; and Tahereh Mafi's *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*.

blindness book analysis: *Sight Unseen* Georgina Kleege, 1999 Describes what it is like to be blind, or to be thought of as blind by sighted society, discusses how blindness has been portrayed in literature and film, and recounts the author's experiences adjusting to macular degeneration, learning braille, and coping with the inability to establish eye contact

blindness book analysis: *Skylight* José Saramago, 2014 Published for the very first time, an early novel by Nobel Laureate and literary master José Saramago that tells the intertwined stories of the residents of a faded Lisbon apartment building in the late 1940s.

blindness book analysis: *Blindness and Reorientation* C.D.C. Reeve, 2013 C. D. C. Reeve develops a powerful new account of the age-old argument over whether the just are happier than the unjust, drawing from a new understanding of Plato's conception of philosophy.

blindness book analysis: *Blindness and Writing* Heather Tilley, 2018 In this innovative and important study, Heather Tilley examines the huge shifts that took place in the experience and conceptualisation of blindness during the nineteenth century, and demonstrates how new writing technologies for blind people had transformative effects on literary culture. Considering the ways in which visually-impaired people used textual means to shape their own identities, the book argues that blindness was also a significant trope through which writers reflected on the act of crafting literary form. Supported by an illuminating range of archival material (including unpublished letters from Wordsworth's circle, early ophthalmologic texts, embossed books, and autobiographies) this is a rich account of blind people's experience, and reveals the close, and often surprising personal engagement that canonical writers had with visual impairment. Drawing on the insights of disability studies and cultural phenomenology, Tilley highlights the importance of attending to embodied experience in the production and consumption of texts.

blindness book analysis: *Blindness* Moshe Barasch, 2001-04-13 This is a remarkable study of how Western culture has represented blindness, especially in that most visual of arts, painting. Moshe Barasch draws upon not only the span of art history from antiquity to the eighteenth century but also the classical and biblical traditions that underpin so much of artistic representation: Blind Homer, the healing of the blind, blind musicians, blindness as punishment, blindness as a special mark. The book discusses blindness in antiquity, in the Early Christian world, in the Middle Ages, and in the Renaissance, with a final consideration of Diderot.

blindness book analysis: *Blind Spots* Max H. Bazerman, Ann E. Tenbrunsel, 2012-12-23 When confronted with an ethical dilemma, most of us like to think we would stand up for our principles. But we are not as ethical as we think we are. In *Blind Spots*, leading business ethicists Max Bazerman and Ann Tenbrunsel examine the ways we overestimate our ability to do what is right and how we act unethically without meaning to. From the collapse of Enron and corruption in the tobacco industry, to sales of the defective Ford Pinto, the downfall of Bernard Madoff, and the Challenger space shuttle disaster, the authors investigate the nature of ethical failures in the business world and beyond, and illustrate how we can become more ethical, bridging the gap between who we are and who we want to be. Explaining why traditional approaches to ethics don't work, the book considers how blind spots like ethical fading--the removal of ethics from the decision-making process--have led to tragedies and scandals such as the Challenger space shuttle disaster, steroid use in Major League Baseball, the crash in the financial markets, and the energy crisis. The authors demonstrate how ethical standards shift, how we neglect to notice and act on the unethical behavior of others, and how compliance initiatives can actually promote unethical behavior. They argue that scandals will continue to emerge unless such approaches take into

account the psychology of individuals faced with ethical dilemmas. Distinguishing our should self (the person who knows what is correct) from our want self (the person who ends up making decisions), the authors point out ethical sinkholes that create questionable actions. Suggesting innovative individual and group tactics for improving human judgment, *Blind Spots* shows us how to secure a place for ethics in our workplaces, institutions, and daily lives.

blindness book analysis: *The Blind Assassin* Margaret Atwood, 2010-12-10 "Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." These words are spoken by Iris Chase Griffen, married at eighteen to a wealthy industrialist but now poor and eighty-two. Iris recalls her far from exemplary life, and the events leading up to her sister's death, gradually revealing the carefully guarded Chase family secrets. Among these is "The Blind Assassin," a novel that earned the dead Laura Chase not only notoriety but also a devoted cult following. Sexually explicit for its time, it was a pulp fantasy improvised by two unnamed lovers who meet secretly in rented rooms and seedy cafés. As this novel-within-a-novel twists and turns through love and jealousy, self-sacrifice and betrayal, so does the real narrative, as both move closer to war and catastrophe. Margaret Atwood's Booker Prize-winning sensation combines elements of gothic drama, romantic suspense, and science fiction fantasy in a spellbinding tale.

blindness book analysis: *Touching the Rock* John M. Hull, 2016-05-19 *Touching the Rock* is a unique exploration of that distant, infinitely strange 'other world' of blindness. John Hull writes of odd sounds and echoes, of people without faces, of a curious new relationship between waking and dreaming, of a changed perception of nature and human personality. He reveals a world in which every human experience - eating and lovemaking, playing with children and buying drinks in the bar - is transformed. 'The incisiveness of Hull's observation, the beauty of his language, make this book poetry; the depth of his reflection turns it into phenomenology or philosophy.' Oliver Sacks, neurologist and bestselling author (1933-2015) 'He lets us see with no trace of self-pity or self-praise how blindness has become for him a genuine acquisition, an unforeseeably rich gift that has made of him what so few of us are: excellent watchers and hearers of the world . . . triumphant in the teeth of ruin.' Reynolds Price, American novelist (1933-2011) *Notes on Blindness*, a feature film and virtual reality experience by Peter Middleton & James Spinney based on John's original audio diaries. The project is an Archer's Mark Production in association with Fee Fie Foe Films and 104 Films in co-production with Agat Films & Cie/Ex Nihilo. www.notesonblindness.co.uk

blindness book analysis: *Eradicating Blindness* Logan D. A. Williams, 2018-08-20 This book describes community ophthalmology professionals in South Asia who demonstrate social entrepreneurship in global health to help the rural poor. Their innovations contested economic and scientific norms, and spread from India and Nepal outwards to other countries in Africa and Asia, as well as the United States, Australia, and Finland. This feminist postcolonial global ethnography illustrates how these innovations have resulted in dual socio-technical systems to solve the problem of avoidable blindness. Policymakers and activists might use this example of how to avoid Schumacher's critique of low labor, large scale and implement Gandhi's philosophy of good for all.

blindness book analysis: *Knots on a Counting Rope* Bill Martin, John Archambault, 1997-09-15 A grandfather and his blind grandson reminisce about the young boy's birth, his first horse and an exciting horse race.

blindness book analysis: *We Spread* Iain Reid, 2022-09-27 The author of the "evocative, spine-tingling, and razor-sharp" (*Bustle*) *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* that inspired the Netflix original movie and the "short, shocking" (*The Guardian*) *Foe* returns with a new work of suspense following an elderly woman trapped in a mysterious facility. Penny, an artist, has lived in the same apartment for decades, surrounded by the artifacts and keepsakes of her long life. She is resigned to the mundane rituals of old age, until things start to slip. Before her longtime partner passed away years earlier, provisions were made for a room in a unique long-term care residence, where Penny finds herself after one too many "incidents." Initially, surrounded by peers, conversing, eating, sleeping, looking out at the beautiful woods that surround the house, all is well. She even begins to paint again. But as the days start to blur together, Penny—with a growing sense of unrest and

distrust—starts to lose her grip on the passage of time and on her place in the world. Is she succumbing to the subtly destructive effects of aging or is she an unknowing participant in something more unsettling? At once compassionate and uncanny, told in spare, hypnotic prose, Iain Reid's "exquisite novel of psychological suspense" (Publishers Weekly, starred review) explores questions of conformity, art, productivity, relationships, and what, ultimately, it means to grow old.

blindness book analysis: *Invisible Man* Ralph Ellison, 2014 The invisible man is the unnamed narrator of this impassioned novel of black lives in 1940s America. Embittered by a country which treats him as a non-being he retreats to an underground cell.

blindness book analysis: *Stone Upon Stone* Wieslaw Mysliwski, 2013-11-04 Winner of the PEN Translation Prize A "sweeping . . . irreverent" masterpiece of postwar Polish literature that "chronicles the modernization of Poland and celebrates the persistence of desire" (The New Yorker) Hailed as one of the best ever books in translation, *Stone Upon Stone* is Wieslaw Mysliwski's grand epic in the rural tradition—a profound and irreverent stream of memory cutting through the rich and varied terrain of one man's connection to the land, to his family and community, to women, to tradition, to God, to death, and to what it means to be alive. Wise and impetuous, plainspoken and compassionate, Szymek recalls his youth in their village, his time as a guerrilla soldier, as a wedding official, barber, policeman, lover, drinker, and caretaker for his invalid brother. Filled with interwoven stories and voices, by turns hilarious and moving, Szymek's narrative exudes the profound wisdom of one who has suffered, yet who loves life to the very core.

blindness book analysis: *More Than Meets the Eye* Georgina Kleege, 2018 *More Than Meets the Eye* seeks to dismantle traditional understandings of blindness through scrutiny of philosophical speculation, scientific case studies, literary depictions, and museum access programs for the blind. It introduces blind and visually impaired artists whose work has shattered stereotypes and opened up new aesthetic possibilities for everyone.

blindness book analysis: *The Friend* (National Book Award Winner) Sigrid Nunez, 2018-02-06 WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES'S 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE 21ST CENTURY NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING NAOMI WATTS "A beautiful book . . . a world of insight into death, grief, art, and love." —Wall Street Journal "A penetrating, moving meditation on loss, comfort, memory . . . Nunez has a wry, withering wit." —NPR "Dry, allusive and charming . . . the comedy here writes itself." —The New York Times The New York Times bestselling story of love, friendship, grief, healing, and the magical bond between a woman and her dog. When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building. While others worry that grief has made her a victim of magical thinking, the woman refuses to be separated from the dog except for brief periods of time. Isolated from the rest of the world, increasingly obsessed with the dog's care, determined to read its mind and fathom its heart, she comes dangerously close to unraveling. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them. Elegiac and searching, *The Friend* is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of human-canine devotion.

blindness book analysis: *After This...* Marcus Engel, 2002

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